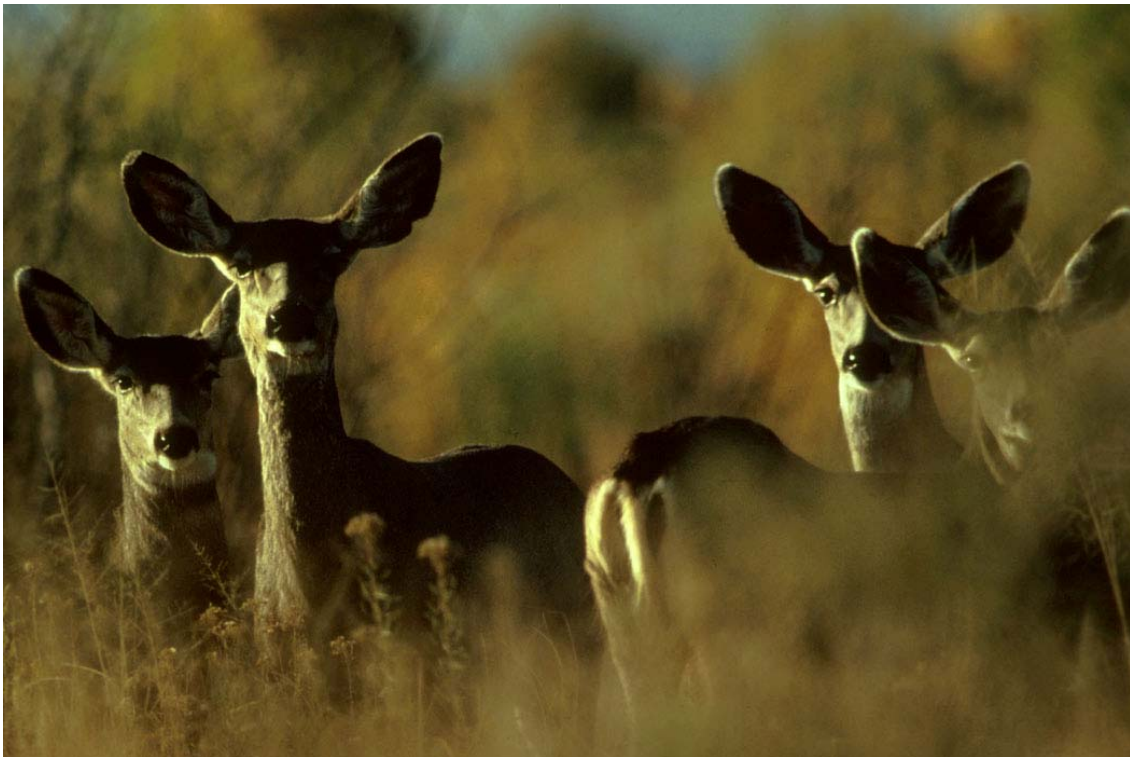


South Dakota
Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003
Evaluation of the 2003 East & West River Deer Seasons
Focus on the Efforts to Increase Harvest of Antlerless Deer in 2003

HD-5-04.AMS

Larry M. Gigliotti



Natural Resource Management
with YOU in mind

Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

This report was produced for Game, Fish and Parks' wildlife staff and administrators to evaluate the 2003 East & West River deer seasons from the perspective of deer hunters and to improve our understanding of resident rifle deer hunters. Recommendations made in this report are solely my opinion and are intended as suggestions for future discussion and consideration by GFP wildlife staff. Recommendations in this report do not necessarily reflect any final decisions by wildlife staff or GFP policy.

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Executive Summary

South Dakota Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003

Evaluation of the 2003 East & West River Deer Seasons

Focus on the Efforts to Increase Harvest of Antlerless Deer in 2003

HD-5-04.AMS

Larry M. Gigliotti

This is a summary report of the 2003 East & West River Deer Hunter Survey. The general purpose of this survey was to learn more about resident East & West River rifle deer hunters. A major focus of this study was on antlerless deer hunting and an evaluation of the strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless deer harvest. The issue facing wildlife managers is how to get the yearly harvest of antlerless deer needed to keep the deer population under control and also provide “quality” hunting opportunities for South Dakota hunters?

Changes implemented in 2003 for East & West River Deer Season:

- 1) reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses
- 2) an extended week of hunting for antlerless deer (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” will be changed to their respective antlerless tags)
- 3) an additional antlerless season from January 1-11 only for any unsold or un-filled tags (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” will be changed to their respective antlerless tags) (on private land only for West River)
- 4) an increase in the maximum number of licenses one may purchase from 3 to 5
- 5) an ability for East River deer hunters to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the region (previously hunters had to go to Pierre to buy licenses once the season started)

Overall Effect of the Strategies on Harvest:

- The strategies implemented in 2003 resulted in an average increase of 41% in the West River antlerless deer harvest and an average increase of 24% in the East River antlerless deer harvest.

Selected Results from the Survey:

- A total of 1,518 usable questionnaires were returned for a return rate of 76.2%.
- The average optimal number of deer that hunters want to harvest is 2.3 deer. About 85% of the hunters fell into the range of 1 to 3 deer as their optimal number of deer to harvest (1 deer = 25.0%, 2 deer = 46.8%, and 3 deer = 13.0%). The total average number of deer harvested was 1.26 per hunter.
- Based on hunters' total deer harvest for 2003 about 46% would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer.
- For the hunters that did not want to harvest more antlerless deer "not liking to hunt antlerless deer" was a reason for about half of these hunters, but the main reason was that they had already harvested enough deer in 2003 (73% of the hunters).
- For the hunters that would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer the top reasons were "not having enough time" and "not being lucky." "Not being able to get antlerless tags" was not a reason for most of these deer hunters.
- Overall, most deer hunters (86.5%) are willing to harvest antlerless deer. Of the hunters willing to harvest antlerless deer, 56% of the hunters reported that the strategies implemented in 2003 helped them to harvest more antlerless deer than they normally would have harvested.
- All five strategies helped to increase the antlerless deer harvest to some extent. The hunters reported that the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season and the additional antlerless season from January 1–11 were the two top strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest.
- Support was very high for all five of the strategies implemented to increase antlerless deer harvest.
- About 28% of the hunters hunted during the extended week of antlerless deer hunting immediately following the regular rifle season. A higher percentage of East River deer hunters than West River deer hunters hunted during the extended week for antlerless deer hunting (35% vs. 20%).
- About 26% of the hunters hunted during the additional antlerless deer season (January 1–11, 2004). A higher percentage of East River deer hunters than West River deer hunters hunted during the additional antlerless deer season (35% vs. 18%).
- Most deer hunters (77%) would be willing to harvest antlerless deer to donate to the Hunters for the Hungry program if they did not have to pay for the processing fees, with only 12% not being likely to participate and 11% unsure. West River and East River deer hunters had similar attitudes towards this potential strategy.

- Most (73%) of the deer hunters were satisfied with their 2003 deer hunting experience, with only 18% being dissatisfied. West River and East River deer hunters had similar levels of satisfaction.
- A higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer (84% vs. 74%); overall most deer hunters can be satisfied without killing a deer.
- A slightly higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters are only interested in buck hunting (16% vs. 12%); however, most deer hunters are not strictly focused on buck hunting.
- Filling their deer tag is more important to a higher percent of East River deer hunters compared to West River deer hunters (54% vs. 40%).
- Hunting for a large buck is more important to a higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters (37% vs. 31%).
- When asked to pick their main reason for liking deer hunting, most resident West River and East River deer hunters picked social reasons (31% and 28%; respectively). Overall, West River and East River deer hunters were relatively similar in their dominant motivations for liking deer hunting.

Understanding Deer Harvest Using a Harvest-Attitude Model

Cluster analysis (K-means) was used to identify five distinct groups of hunters to provide a topology (segmentation scheme) that was more related to the topic of antlerless deer harvest. Two concepts were involved in developing this model, one being success related and the other being the object of their success (e.g., buck or large buck). This harvest-attitude model produced five groups. The names given to the harvest-attitude model groups are not based on motivations, however motivations were instrumental in helping to name some of the groups. The following is a brief description of the harvest-attitude groups.

Buck Hunters (16%). Buck hunters are almost exclusively focused on buck hunting and mainly large buck hunting; however, even this group will harvest some antlerless deer (but definitely a lot fewer than the other groups). Surprisingly, buck hunters do not harvest more bucks than the other harvest-attitude groups. An interesting feature of this group is that success is not very important. Buck hunters were the least

supportive and were actually slightly opposed to one of the five strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest. Buck hunters were on average opposed to the increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person could purchase. By far, buck hunters were the least willing to harvest antlerless deer (56% willing to harvest antlerless deer). Buck hunters were comprised of a relative mix of all the motivations except meat.

Meat Hunters (22%). The meat hunter group tended to be at the opposite end of the buck hunters on many parameters measured in this survey. Success was very important to this group although not necessarily linked to satisfaction (i.e., they can still be satisfied even if they are not successful). Meat hunters hunted the fewest days. The focus is on getting meat easily and quickly rather than strictly as a recreational activity. Meat hunters are still interested in hunting for bucks, although very willing to harvest antlerless deer. Still the meat hunters are not the most proficient antlerless deer harvesters, being tied with the all-round deer hunter in that category. Meat hunters tended to be the most positive overall towards the five strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest. The meat hunters were similar to the trophy/success hunters in their lower likelihood compared to the other three groups of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program. However, the reasons for their lower likelihood of participating are probably very different. Meat hunters are less likely to participate because they go hunting in order to harvest the deer for their own use and the trophy/success hunters are too focused on finding a large buck to spend time harvesting antlerless deer to donate to the program.

Trophy/Success Hunters (10%). The trophy/success group is one of three groups interested in large bucks but is unique in being the only group where success is linked to satisfaction, i.e., killing a deer is a necessary outcome for the hunter to be satisfied. The trophy/success group represents the smallest group of hunters. In spite of the “trophy” component of the name, this group will harvest antlerless deer. One feature of this group is that they are difficult to satisfy and indeed this group was the least overall satisfied of the five harvest-attitude groups. As noted above, the trophy-success hunters were similar to the meat hunters in their lower likelihood compared to the other three groups of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program. However, the

reasons for their lower likelihood of participating are probably very different. Meat hunters are less likely to participate because they go hunting in order to harvest the deer for their own use and the trophy/success hunters are too focused on finding a large buck to spend time harvesting antlerless deer to donate to the program. The trophy/success hunters were the second least willing to harvest antlerless deer, although most (81%) were willing to harvest antlerless deer. The trophy/success hunters were comprised of a mix of dominate motivations, but trophy motivations were relatively important to this group.

Social/Nature Hunters (28%). The social/nature hunter group is the largest group of hunters. Success is not important since other motivations for hunting dominant for this group. As expected this group would be the easiest to satisfy and indeed this group was the most overall satisfied of the five harvest-attitude groups. This group had the second highest likelihood level of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program and the second highest percent willing to harvest antlerless deer (94%).

All-round Deer Hunters (24%). Success is important to the all-round deer hunter group, but not linked to satisfaction, and they have an interest in large bucks. The main feature of this group is their high participation rate in all types of deer hunting. This group also has the highest total deer harvest and is equal to the meat hunters in their harvest of antlerless deer. This group had the highest likelihood level of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program, probably because it allows them more opportunity to hunt and not to worry about the costs or time needed to process extra deer.

Conclusion

In summary one important finding of this research is that buck hunting opportunities for resident deer hunters is probably very important to achieving and maintaining an adequate antlerless deer harvest. Attitudinally, buck hunting opportunities is an important motivational component for about 50% of the deer hunters to go deer hunting and staying interested in deer hunting. Once out in the field, these hunters will then be willing to harvest antlerless deer. Behaviorally, almost all the deer hunters seem to have an interest in buck hunting based on their actual buck harvest rates.

What this means is that reasonable buck hunting opportunities for resident deer hunters must be maintained to keep a significant number of deer hunters involved, interested and participating in deer hunting as a tool for achieving and maintaining antlerless deer harvest at a desirable level in South Dakota.

Recommendation

It is recommended that GFP staff develop a deer management planning process and plan incorporating the principles of adaptive management to guide future deer management decisions.

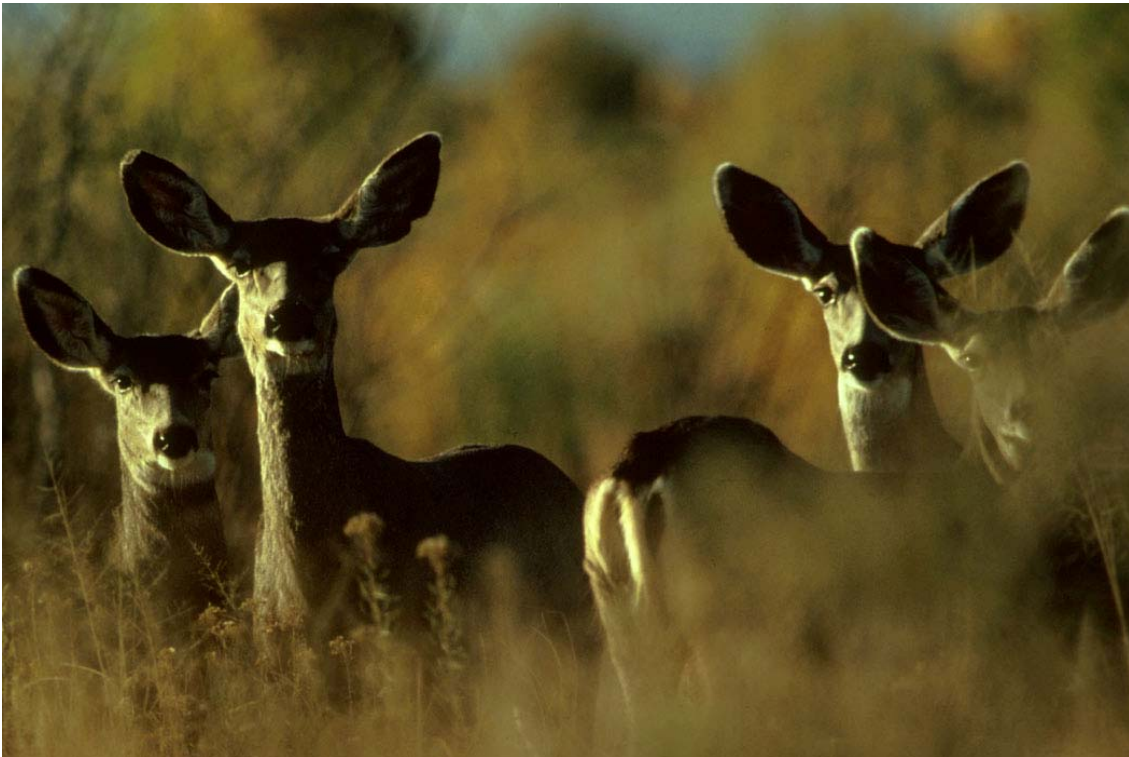
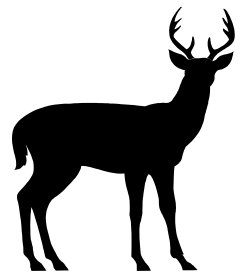
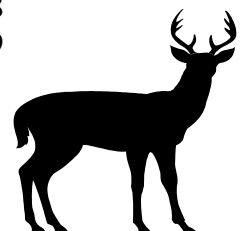


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South Dakota

Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003

Evaluation of the 2003 East & West River Deer Seasons Focus on the Efforts to Increase Harvest of Antlerless Deer in 2003

HD-5-04.AMS

Larry M. Gigliotti

The purpose of this survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of the various strategies that were implemented in the 2003 East River and West River rifle deer seasons to increase antlerless deer harvest. The strategies implemented in 2003 were: (1) reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses; (2) an extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” tags will be changed to their respective antlerless tags); (3) an additional antlerless season from January 1–11 for any unsold and unfilled tags (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” tags will be changed to their respective antlerless tags) (on private land only for West River); (4) an increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5; and (5) an ability for East River deer hunters to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the region (previously hunters had to go the Pierre to buy licenses once the season started). In addition, more deer tags were available in the 2003 deer seasons compared to 2002.

Overall, the strategies implemented in 2003 resulted in an average increase of 41% in the West River antlerless deer harvest (32% increase in white-tail does and 56% increase in mule deer does) and an average increase of 24% in the East River antlerless deer harvest (24.5% increase in white-tail does and 6% increase in mule deer does) (Figure 1). However, because these strategies were implemented simultaneously it is impossible to determine the contribution of each strategy to the overall increase in antlerless deer harvest. This hunter opinion survey evaluates the antlerless deer harvest strategies based on participation, harvest results, associated problems and hunter

attitudes. This survey also evaluates hunter attitudes towards the various strategies and the potential for additional antlerless deer harvest.

West River						
Year	Total Tags	Buck Harvest		Doe Harvest		Combined Doe Harvest
		White-tail	Mule Deer	White-tail	Mule Deer	
2002	34,384	6,318	4,618	3,837	2,430	6,267
2003	37,883	5,273	4,713	5,073	3,766	8,839
Doe harvest increase from 2002 to 2003 →				1,236	1,336	2,572
Percent increase from 2002 to 2003 →				32.2%	56.0%	41.0%
East River						
Year	Total Tags	Buck Harvest		Doe Harvest		Combined Doe Harvest
		White-tail	Mule Deer	White-tail	Mule Deer	
2002	55,235	14,300	454	17,252	439	17,691
2003	63,660	13,984	418	21,473	466	21,939
Doe harvest increase from 2002 to 2003 →				4,221	27	4,248
Percent increase from 2002 to 2003 →				24.5%	6.2%	24.0%

Figure 1. Antlerless deer harvest increase from 2002 to 2003 in the regular firearm West River and East River deer seasons.

Methods

A 12-page, booklet (8½ by 11) questionnaire was mailed to 2,000 randomly selected West River and East River deer hunters (1,000 from each deer season) about mid-February 2004 (Table 1) (Appendix A). A post card reminder was sent on March 2, 2004 followed by two additional mailings of the questionnaire with an additional cover letter on March 17, 2004 and April 8, 2004 (Appendix A). Because the number of antlerless deer that a hunter is willing to harvest is dependent on their total amount of deer hunting and harvest the focus of this survey is on the hunters' total amount of deer hunting (includes all types of deer hunting in South Dakota during the 2003 deer season, including the January 1–11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons).

Results

Return Rate. A total of 1,518 usable questionnaires were returned for a 76.2% return rate (Table 1).

Total Days of Deer Hunting. Excluding hunters that did not deer hunt in 2003 (3.2% West River and 1.6% East River), West River deer hunters averaged 7.7 total days of deer hunting and East River deer hunters averaged 8.4 total days of deer hunting (Table 2).

Number and Types of Deer Tags Held by Deer Hunters. About 89% of the deer hunters had one or more tags that permitted harvesting a buck and about 78% of the deer hunters had one or more antlerless deer tags (Table 3). Overall average number of tags that permitted harvesting a buck was 1.25 and overall average number of antlerless deer tags was 1.15. West River deer hunters had a higher average number of tags that permitted harvesting a buck than did East River deer hunters (1.4 vs. 1.1) while East River deer hunters had a higher average number of antlerless deer tags than did West River deer hunters (1.4 vs. 1.0). Overall, West River and East River deer hunters had a statistically similar average number of total deer tags (2.33 West River and 2.48 East River).

Hunters' Evaluation of the 2003 Deer Population. Attitudes and willingness to harvest antlerless deer will be influenced partly by hunters' perception of the deer population. Hunters were asked to rate the total number of deer they saw for their total deer hunting in 2003 on a scale of 1 equal to "very few" to 9 being "lots of deer." Overall average rating was 5.9 with East River deer hunters having a higher rating than West River deer hunters (6.2 vs. 5.7) (Table 4).

Hunters' Optimal and Potential Deer Harvest. Overall, the average optimal number of deer that hunters want to harvest is 2.3 deer (West River and East River deer hunters were statistically similar) (Table 5). About 85% of the hunters fell into the range of 1 to 3 deer as their optimal number of deer to harvest (1 deer = 25.0%, 2 deer = 46.8%, and 3 deer = 13.0%). The total average number of deer harvested was 1.26 (West River

and East River deer hunters were statistically similar) (Table 6). Thus, there is still some potential to harvest more deer ($2.30 - 1.26 = 1.04$) by hunters willing to harvest more deer, provided hunters are willing to harvest antlerless deer.

Antlerless Deer Harvest. Based on hunters' total deer harvest for 2003 about 46% would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer (Table 7). For the hunters that did not want to harvest more antlerless deer "not liking to hunt antlerless deer" was a reason for about half of these hunters, but the main reason was that they had already harvested enough deer in 2003 (73% of the hunters) (Table 7A). For the hunters that would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer the top reasons were "not having enough time" and "not being lucky" (Table 7B). "Not being able to get antlerless tags" was not a reason for most of these deer hunters (72.5%). Seven possible reasons were evaluated (Table 7B).

Overall, most deer hunters (86.5%) are willing to harvest antlerless deer (Table 8). Of the hunters willing to harvest antlerless deer, 56% of the hunters reported that the strategies implemented in 2003 helped them to harvest more antlerless deer than they normally would have harvested. All five strategies helped to increase the antlerless deer harvest to some extent (Table 8A). The hunters reported that the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season and the additional antlerless season from January 1–11 were the two top strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest.

Attitudes towards the Five Strategies to Increase Antlerless Deer Harvest. Support was very high for all five of the strategies implemented to increase antlerless deer harvest (Tables 9A – 9E).

- **Attitude – Reduced Fees for Antlerless Deer Licenses.** Reduced fees for antlerless deer was the most popular of the five strategies. About 71% of the deer hunters support this strategy and only 7% were opposed (Table 9A). Support by East River deer hunters was slightly higher than the level of support by West River deer hunters.
- **Attitude – Extended Week of Hunting for Antlerless Deer Immediately Following the Regular Rifle Season.** Overall, support for this strategy was very

high (75% support vs. 10% opposed) (Table 9B). Support by East River deer hunters was higher than the level of support by West River deer hunters.

- **Attitude – Additional Antlerless Season from January 1–11.** Overall, support for this strategy was also very high (76% support vs. 11% opposed) (Table 9C). Again, support by East River deer hunters was higher than the level of support by West River deer hunters.
- **Attitude – Increase in the Maximum Number of Licenses that a Person May Purchase from 3 to 5.** Although still getting more support than opposition, this strategy was less popular than the other strategies (51% support vs. 21% opposed) (Table 9D). Support by East River deer hunters was higher than the level of support by West River deer hunters.
- **Attitude – Ability to Purchase Licenses Throughout the Deer Season from Various Agents Located Across the State.** Overall, support for this strategy was very high (70% support vs. 9% opposed) (Table 9E). West River and East River deer hunters had similar attitudes towards this strategy.¹

Hunters for the Hungry Program. This is a program that accepts donated deer, which is then processed and distributed to families that need food. Normally the program asks the hunters to pay the processing fee. Hunters were asked how likely they would be to harvest antlerless deer to donate to the “Hunters for the Hungry” program if they did not have to pay for the processing. Most deer hunters (77%) would be willing to harvest antlerless deer to donate to the program if they did not have to pay for the processing fees, with only 12% not being likely to participate and 11% unsure (Table 10). West River and East River deer hunters had similar attitudes towards this potential strategy.

Participation in the Strategies – Hunt during the Extended Week of Antlerless Deer Hunting Immediately Following the Regular Rifle Season. About 28% of the hunters hunted during the extended week of antlerless deer hunting immediately following the regular rifle season (Table 11). A higher percentage of East

¹ Note: this strategy was only available for the East River Deer Season. Some deer hunters in the West River sample also hunted in the East River Deer Season.

River deer hunters than West River deer hunters hunted during the extended week for antlerless deer hunting (35% vs. 20%) (Table 11A). About 29% of the hunters participating in this extended week of antlerless deer hunting harvested deer (Table 11). Most (63%) did not have any problems finding a place to hunt or getting permission to hunt on private land (Table 11). And, of those harvesting a deer, most harvested one deer (86%), with another 12% harvesting two deer (Table 11). Except for the participation rate, West River and East River deer hunters were statistically similar on the percent harvesting deer, degree of problems and the number of deer harvested (Table 11A).

Participation in the Strategies – Hunt During the Additional Antlerless Deer Season from January 1 – 11 (2004). About 26% of the hunters hunted during the additional antlerless deer season (January 1–11, 2004) (Table 12). A higher percentage of East River deer hunters than West River deer hunters hunted during the additional antlerless deer season (35% vs. 18%) (Table 12A). About 38% of the hunters participating in this extended week of antlerless deer hunting harvested deer (Table 12) with more West River participants harvesting deer compared to East River participants (Table 12A). Most (66%) did not have any problems finding a place to hunt or getting permission to hunt on private land (Table 12). And, of those harvesting a deer, most harvested one deer (81%), with another 17% harvesting two deer (Table 12). West River and East River deer hunters were statistically similar on the degree of problems and the number of deer harvested (Table 12A).

Purchasing Antlerless Deer Licenses after the Regular Deer Season Started. Only 3% of the deer hunters purchased antlerless deer licenses after the regular season started with more East River than West River deer hunters taking advantage of this opportunity (4.4% vs. 1.8%) (Tables 13 and 13A). Of the hunters buying licenses during this time period, most did not have any problems (85%) (Table 13).

Satisfaction with Their 2003 South Dakota Deer Hunting Experience. Most (73%) of the deer hunters were satisfied with their 2003 deer hunting experience, with only 18% being dissatisfied (Table 14). West River and East River deer hunters had similar levels of satisfaction.

Motivations for Deer Hunting (residents only). West River deer hunters rated nature and social reasons slightly higher in importance than did the East River deer hunters (Tables 15A – 15G). West River and East River had the same top rated reasons, although in a different order (Tables 16). West River had the highest rating for nature reasons followed by social and then excitement. East River had the highest rating for excitement reasons followed by nature and then social. Trophy reasons were rated higher than meat by West River hunters while East River hunters rated meat higher in importance than trophy reasons.

When asked to pick their main reason for liking deer hunting, most West River and East River deer hunters picked social reasons (31% and 28%; respectively) (Table 17). Overall, West River and East River were relatively similar in their dominant motivations for liking deer hunting. The motivational profile of each deer hunter type can be found in Table 18.

Harvest Attitudes of Deer Hunters. Overall, West River and East River had significantly different harvest attitudes (Table 19). A higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer (84% vs. 74%); overall most deer hunters can be satisfied without killing a deer. A slightly higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters are only interested in buck hunting (16% vs. 12%); however, most deer hunters are not strictly focused on buck hunting. Filling their deer tag is more important to a higher percent of East River deer hunters compared to West River deer hunters (54% vs. 40%). Hunting for a large buck is more important to a higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters (37% vs. 31%).

Deer Hunting Methods. Since this survey selected hunters from the West River and East River rifle deer seasons it is not surprising that almost every hunter in the survey uses a rifle in a normal year of deer hunting, however, about 20% also archery deer hunt, 7% use a muzzleloader and about 3% use a handgun (Table 20). About 85% selected the rifle as their favorite deer hunting method, followed by 13% selecting archery equipment.

Deer Hunting History – 2003. Overall, deer hunters averaged about one and a half deer licenses (Table 21). Of particular note is that while about 13% of the East River deer hunters also had a regular West River deer license, only about 3% of the West River deer hunters also had an East River deer license.

Demographic Description of Deer Hunters. About one-third of the deer hunters own land outside town/city limits (Table 22). About 8% of the West River deer hunters and 8.5% of the East River deer hunters own 160 acres.

About 23% of the West River deer hunters and about 28% of the East River deer hunters are farmers/ranchers (Table 23). Note that about 35% of the West River deer hunters live East River, while only 2% of the East River deer hunters live West River (Table 24). The average age of the deer hunters was 41 years (Table 25) and about 7% of the deer hunters were female (Table 26).

Understanding Deer Harvest Using the Motivations Model

Hunters' most important reason (motivation) for liking deer hunting (Table 17) is used here to further understand deer hunters and antlerless deer harvest (analysis based on 2003 South Dakota resident West River and East River deer hunters). Social hunters had the least amount of deer hunting (5.5 days) and challenge hunters the most (10.3 days) (Table 27). Meat hunters had the lowest average number of "buck" tags (1.06 buck tags) and challenge hunters the highest average number (1.48 buck tags); trophy hunters had the lowest average number of antlerless deer tags (0.91 antlerless tags) and meat hunters the highest average number (1.48 antlerless tags); and social hunters had the lowest average total number of deer tags (2.17 deer tags) and challenge hunters the highest average total number deer tags (2.67 deer tags) (Table 28).

Social hunters had the lowest average buck harvest (0.54 bucks harvested) and challenge hunters the highest (0.71 bucks harvested), but the relationship was not significant (Table 29). However, there was a significant difference in antlerless deer harvest among the hunter motivational types, with trophy hunters having the lowest average antlerless deer harvest (0.49 antlerless deer harvested) and meat hunters the highest antlerless deer harvest (1.02 antlerless deer harvested). Overall, social hunters

had the lowest average total harvest rate (1.10 deer per hunter) and meat hunters the highest average total harvest rate (1.59 deer per hunter).

Social hunters had the lowest average number of deer for their optimal number of deer that they would like to harvest (2.13 deer per hunter) and meat hunters had the highest optimal rate (2.68 deer per hunter) (Table 30).

Trophy hunters had the lowest overall satisfaction with their 2003 deer hunting experiences and meat hunters had the second lowest satisfaction level (Table 30). Challenge hunters and excitement hunters had the highest satisfaction level.

Overall, all hunter types had positive attitudes towards all five of the strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest, but trophy hunters were less positive than all the other six motivational hunter-types for all five strategies and meat hunters had the highest positive ratings for four of the five strategies (Table 32). In summary, trophy hunters were the least positive towards the strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest and meat hunters the most positive, with the other motivational hunter-types having statistically similar attitudes towards the five strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest.

Meat hunters were the least likely to participate in a “subsidized” Hunters for the Hungry program and trophy hunters the second least likely to participate, while nature hunters were most likely to participate (Table 33). Meat hunters had the highest percent of hunters willing to harvest antlerless deer (96.8%) and trophy hunters the lowest (75.0%) (Table 34).

Understanding Deer Harvest Using a Harvest-Attitude Model

The “harvest-attitude” model is based on deer hunters’ responses to the following set of four questions (Table 35):

- a) Filling my deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me. [**Success Important**]
- b) A deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer. [**Success Linked to Satisfaction**]
- c) I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e.; I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license. [**Buck Hunter Only**]
- d) I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards. [**Large Buck Hunter**]

Responses to these items are coded as -2 = strongly disagree; -1 = slightly disagree; 0 = neutral or no opinion; +1 = slightly agree, and +2 = strongly agree. Cluster analysis (K-means) was used to identify five distinct groups of hunters based on their responses to the above four questions. It is difficult to name all five groups based only on the information used in developing the model. For three of the five groups success was important (groups 2, 3 and 5, but it was most important for group 2), however success was linked to satisfaction only for group 3. There was only one strictly buck hunter group (group 1), but three groups interested in large bucks (groups 1, 3, and 5). The names given to the five groups are based on responses to other parameters in this survey and are subjective (Table 36). Group 4 (social/nature hunters) was the largest (28.1%) and group 3 (trophy/success hunters) the smallest (9.7%).

Group 2 (meat hunters) hunted deer the fewest days (6.69 days) and group 5 (all-round deer hunters) hunted deer the most days (10.51 days) (Table 37). Groups 1 (buck hunters) and 5 (all-round deer hunters) had the most buck tags (1.46 buck tags, each), while group 5 (all-round deer hunters) had the most antlerless deer tags (1.36 antlerless deer tags), followed by group 2 (meat hunters) with 1.25 antlerless deer tags and group 1 hunters (buck hunters) had the fewest antlerless deer tags (0.78 antlerless deer tags). (Table 38). Overall, group 5 (all-round deer hunters) had the most total deer tags (2.81 deer tags).

Group 5 hunters (all-round deer hunters) harvested the most bucks (0.73 bucks per hunter) and groups 2 (meat hunters) and 5 (all-round deer hunters) harvested the most antlerless deer (0.81 antlerless deer per hunter, each) (Table 39). The group 1 hunters (buck hunters) harvested the fewest antlerless deer (0.81 antlerless deer per hunter).

The group 5 hunters (all-round deer hunters) had the highest mean optimal number of deer that they would like to harvest each year (2.59 deer) and group 2 hunters (buck hunters) the lowest number of deer (1.98 deer) (Table 40). The group 3 hunters (trophy/success hunters) were the least satisfied and the group 4 hunters (social/nature hunters) the most satisfied (Table 41).

Overall, the group 1 hunters (buck hunters) had the lowest level of support for the five strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest and the group 2 hunters (meat hunters)

tended to have the highest level of support for the five strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest (Table 42).

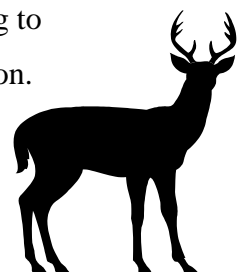
The group 5 hunters (all-round deer hunters) would be the most likely to participate in the Hunters for the Hungry program if processing fees were not required and group 2 (meat hunters) and 3 (trophy/success hunters) were the least likely to participate (Table 43). Group 2 (meat hunters) were the most willing to harvest antlerless deer (95.2%) and group 1 (buck hunters) the least willing to harvest antlerless deer (56.1%) (Table 44).

The importance of each motivation for each of the harvest-attitude hunter groups will help provide a better understanding of these groups (Table 45). As would be expected, “to bring meat home for food” was least important to the buck hunter and most important to the meat hunters with the other three harvest-attitude groups somewhat in the middle and relatively similar to each other in their ranking of the importance of the “meat” motivation. Nature, excitement and social reasons were all relatively important to all five harvest-attitude groups but slightly less important to the trophy/success hunter group. “To bring home a trophy deer was important to three harvest-attitude groups (buck hunter, trophy/success hunter and the all-round deer hunter groups). Challenge was least important to the meat hunters and most important to the all-round deer hunters.

Comparing the Two Models (Hunter Motivations Model & Harvest-Attitude Model)

The comparison of the two models was instrumental in helping to name the groups in the harvest-attitude model. Table 46 shows the distribution of the top deer hunting motivations for each group in the harvest-attitude model. Table 47 shows the distribution of the harvest-attitude groups for each group in the hunter motivations model.

Hunters’ Evaluation of the Deer Herd. Hunters’ evaluation of the 2003 deer population (rating of the number of deer seen) was not significantly related to either model (Motivations Model: ANOVA $F=0.64$; $df=6/1,411$; $p=0.695$ and Harvest-Attitude Model: ANOVA $F=1.22$; $df=4/1,432$; $p=0.299$), however there was a significant relationship with willingness to harvest antlerless deer (Table 48). Hunters willing to harvest antlerless deer gave a significantly higher rating of the 2003 deer population.



Discussion

Overall, the strategies implemented in 2003 did result in an increase in antlerless deer harvest compared to the previous year (2002). In addition to the strategies evaluated in this survey there was also an increase in the number of deer tags available in 2003 compared to 2002 (10.2% increase in West River deer tags and 15.3% increase in East River deer tags). Overall, for 2003 there was a 41% increase in doe harvest and an 8.7% decrease in buck harvest for the West River deer season and a 24% increase in doe harvest and a 2.4% decrease in buck harvest for the East River deer season. Therefore the package of strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless was a success, at least in the short term. Long-term success will be achieved when the harvest is able to maintain the deer population at a desirable level. The two questions now are which strategies were most effective at increasing the antlerless deer harvest and how popular were the various strategies with the deer hunters?

There are two general types of strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest. One type of strategies would be to work with hunters that desire to harvest more antlerless deer, i.e., to increase the efficiency of willing hunters. Most of the strategies implemented in 2003 were of this type (1) an extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season; (2) an additional antlerless season from January 1–11 for any unsold and unfilled tags; (3) an increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5; and (4) an ability for East River deer hunters to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the region (previously hunters had to go the Pierre to buy licenses once the season started). Also, for the two season extension strategies unsold and unfilled “any deer,” “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” tags were changed to their respective antlerless tags. These strategies are designed to improve hunters’ chances of harvesting as many antlerless deer as they desire.

A second type of strategies would be to try to increase hunters’ willingness to harvest antlerless deer. One strategy implemented in 2003 fit this category namely, reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses, i.e., for some hunters the price of a license may be limiting the number of antlerless deer they are willing to harvest. Reducing the fee

may cause some hunters to purchase additional antlerless deer licenses and thus harvest additional deer. However, this strategy still requires hunters to have a desire to use additional deer.

A more direct application of this second type of strategies would be to increase hunters' harvest above their current desired level. This strategy would need to find a way to utilize (or dispose of) the harvested deer. The one strategy that is currently available to accomplish this is the Hunters for the Hungry program. However, it is hypothesized that participation in this program is limited because hunters donating deer are often required to pay processing costs (which can be quite expensive). An application of this strategy would be for the agency to develop a program that would pay for the processing fees of deer donated to the Hunters for the Hungry program. The popularity of such a program was evaluated in this survey.

Potential to Harvest More Antlerless Deer. Overall, there are still many hunters desiring to harvest more deer than they are currently harvesting and many willing to harvest antlerless deer. About 46% of the 2003 hunters would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer. However given the reasons for not harvesting all the deer they wanted, further expansion of the current strategies (such as even longer antlerless deer seasons) is not likely to greatly increase the antlerless deer harvest. Additional strategies may be needed if there is a need to increase the antlerless deer harvest to an even higher rate than that achieved with the 2003 antlerless deer harvest.

The Hunters for the Hungry program is one example of a strategy that has the potential to increase antlerless deer harvest above the levels achieved in 2003. The Hunters for the Hungry program provides an avenue for hunters to harvest more deer than they can personally utilize and to feel good about it by donating the meat to a worthy cause. The one barrier to participation in the current program is that it requires the hunter to donate the cost of processing the deer. Processing costs are high enough to prohibit many hunters from donating deer to the program. An enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program that covered the processing fees would be very popular, especially if hunters were convinced of the need to harvest more deer for the overall benefit of the deer herd. The types of hunters that would be most interested in participating are the very types of

deer hunters that have a lower than average number of deer that they personally utilize. Thus, this strategy has the potential to increase antlerless deer harvest by increasing the number of deer that hunters will harvest, as opposed to other strategies of improving the efficiency of hunters that already desire more deer.

One additional component that would need to be added to the enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program besides just covering the processing fees would be an education program to inform deer hunters of the need to harvest additional antlerless deer. If hunters believe that harvesting additional antlerless deer is needed for the overall good of the deer population and they have a convenient place to donate their deer to a worthy cause without great expense to themselves the program can be very effective. Of course, the only barrier would be for the agency to find a way to cover the cost of such a program. Since this strategy could be very expensive, it probably should only be considered if the current strategies fail to achieve the desired harvest.

Effectiveness and Evaluation of the Strategies to Increase Antlerless Deer Harvest. The two most effective strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest were the season extension strategies. About 28% of the hunters participated (20% West River and 35% East River) in the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season and about 29% of the participants harvested deer. About 26% of the hunters participated (18% West River and 35% East River) in the additional antlerless deer season from January 1–11 and about 38% of the participants harvested deer. These two strategies were about equal in participation, effectiveness and popularity. However, if there is a need to cut back on antlerless deer harvest in the future my recommendation would be to cut the January 1–11 season first because of the administrative burden it places on the task of measuring harvest needed by biologists for the next year's season setting process.

Only about 3% of the hunters purchased antlerless deer licenses after the regular season. This is a nice and very much appreciated customer service strategy but it may not have contributed much to the actual additional harvest of antlerless deer.

It was not possible to determine how many additional antlerless deer licenses were purchased strictly due to the reduced fee but the strategy was at least very popular.

My recommendation is that a pricing strategy be continued based on demand and supply principles. When there are more antlerless deer tags available than demand the price needs to be very low, however, if in the future there is a need to rebuild the deer population and antlerless deer harvest needs to be restricted the price of an antlerless deer license should be raised.

While the strategy that increased the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5 was still popular by about 2.4 to 1 (support vs. oppose), this strategy was the least popular of the five strategies. However, this strategy makes a lot of sense when faced with a need to increase antlerless deer harvest. When the average hunter only wants to harvest a total of about two deer and there are not enough hunters to achieve the needed harvest, taking advantage of the small number of hunters that will utilize more than the average number of deer is the most efficient way to increase the overall antlerless deer harvest. Unfortunately many people have an attitude that the only fair distribution of a resource is when it is divided evenly among the users and hunters desiring to take more than the average number of deer are sometimes referred to a “game hogs.” In times when a larger harvest is needed than can be achieved with normal hunting strategies, hunters willing to harvest additional deer should be seen as “good sportsmen” and not viewed or labeled as “game hogs.”

Understanding Deer Harvest. The motivations model is a very good tool for understanding many aspects about deer hunters and provided some understanding of attitudes and behaviors related to antlerless deer harvest. Overall, the motivational hunters types were statistically similar in their buck harvest, but were extremely different in antlerless deer harvest ranging from a low harvest for trophy hunters to a high harvest for meat hunters. While all groups had positive ratings for the five strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest, meat hunters were the most positive and trophy hunters the least positive. While the motivational model was useful for understanding differences between meat hunters and trophy hunters it was less useful for identifying differences among the other motivational hunter types. In other words, the nature, social, excitement, challenge and solitude hunters tended to be somewhat similar in their behaviors and attitudes related to antlerless deer harvest.

The harvest-attitude model was developed to provide a topology (segmentation scheme) that was more related to the topic of antlerless deer harvest. Two concepts were involved in developing this model, one being success related and the other being the object of their success (e.g., buck or large buck). This harvest-attitude model produced five groups. The names given to the harvest-attitude model groups are not based on motivations, however motivations were instrumental in helping to name some of the groups. The following is a brief description of the harvest-attitude groups.

Buck Hunters (16%). Buck hunters are almost exclusively focused on buck hunting and mainly large buck hunting; however, even this group will harvest some antlerless deer (but definitely a lot fewer than the other groups). Surprisingly, buck hunters do not harvest more bucks than the other harvest-attitude groups. An interesting feature of this group is that success is not very important. Buck hunters were the least supportive and were actually slightly opposed to one of the five strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest. Buck hunters were on average opposed to the increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person could purchase. By far, buck hunters were the least willing to harvest antlerless deer (56% willing to harvest antlerless deer). Buck hunters were comprised of a relative mix of all the motivations except meat.

Meat Hunters (22%). The meat hunter group tended to be at the opposite end of the buck hunters on many parameters measured in this survey. Success was very important to this group although not necessarily linked to satisfaction (i.e., they can still be satisfied even if they are not successful). Meat hunters hunted the fewest days. The focus is on getting meat easily and quickly rather than strictly as a recreational activity. Meat hunters are still interested in hunting for bucks, although very willing to harvest antlerless deer. Still the meat hunters are not the most proficient antlerless deer harvesters, being tied with the all-round deer hunter in that category. Meat hunters tended to be the most positive overall towards the five strategies to increase antlerless deer harvest. The meat hunters were similar to the trophy/success hunters in their lower likelihood compared to the other three groups of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program. However, the reasons for their lower likelihood of participating are probably very different. Meat hunters are less likely to participate because they go hunting in order to harvest the deer for their own use and the trophy/success hunters are

too focused on finding a large buck to spend time harvesting antlerless deer to donate to the program.

Trophy/Success Hunters (10%). The trophy/success group is one of three groups interested in large bucks but is unique in being the only group where success is linked to satisfaction, i.e., killing a deer is a necessary outcome for the hunter to be satisfied. The trophy/success group represents the smallest group of hunters. In spite of the “trophy” component of the name, this group will harvest antlerless deer. One feature of this group is that they are difficult to satisfy and indeed this group was the least overall satisfied of the five harvest-attitude groups. As noted above, the trophy-success hunters were similar to the meat hunters in their lower likelihood compared to the other three groups of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program. However, the reasons for their lower likelihood of participating are probably very different. Meat hunters are less likely to participate because they go hunting in order to harvest the deer for their own use and the trophy/success hunters are too focused on finding a large buck to spend time harvesting antlerless deer to donate to the program. The trophy/success hunters were the second least willing to harvest antlerless deer, although most (81%) were willing to harvest antlerless deer. The trophy/success hunters were comprised of a mix of dominate motivations, but trophy motivations were relatively important to this group.

Social/Nature Hunters (28%). The social/nature hunter group is the largest group of hunters. Success is not important since other motivations for hunting dominant for this group. As expected this group would be the easiest to satisfy and indeed this group was the most overall satisfied of the five harvest-attitude groups. This group had the second highest likelihood level of participating in an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program and the second highest percent willing to harvest antlerless deer (94%).

All-round Deer Hunters (24%). Success is important to the all-round deer hunter group, but not linked to satisfaction, and they have an interest in large bucks. The main feature of this group is their high participation rate in all types of deer hunting. This group also has the highest total deer harvest and is equal to the meat hunters in their harvest of antlerless deer. This group had the highest likelihood level of participating in

an enhanced Hunters for the Hungry program, probably because it allows them more opportunity to hunt and not to worry about the costs or time needed to process extra deer.

Conclusion/Recommendations. In summary one important finding of this research is that buck hunting opportunities for resident deer hunters is probably very important to achieving and maintaining an adequate antlerless deer harvest. Attitudinally, buck hunting opportunities is an important motivational component for about 50% of the deer hunters to go deer hunting and staying interested in deer hunting. Once out in the field, these hunters will then be willing to harvest antlerless deer. Behaviorally, almost all the deer hunters seem to have an interest in buck hunting based on their actual buck harvest rates. What this means is that reasonable buck hunting opportunities for resident deer hunters must be maintained to keep a significant number of deer hunters involved, interested and participating in deer hunting as a tool for achieving and maintaining antlerless deer harvest at a desirable level in South Dakota.

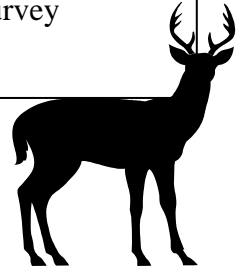
While the strategies implemented in 2003 worked to increase antlerless deer harvest it is impossible to determine the level of success, i.e., were the increases too much, not enough or just right to achieve the desired deer population levels. For this to happen we need to first identify harvest goals or population targets using an adaptive management approach.

Adaptive management is a leaning approach that recognizes the fact that not all the research information that is needed is available, but that the situation requires decisions and action. However, the key to adaptive management is to learn from the situations and to take corrective action if needed in the future. In this situation there are two major decision points. First, setting harvest or population goals for the deer and then measuring to see if the goals were reached. The learning involved in this step is to identify which strategies work and to what level or effect they work. Over time enough information is gained to allow managers to prescribe strategies to reach various specific levels of harvest with a greater degree of confidence.

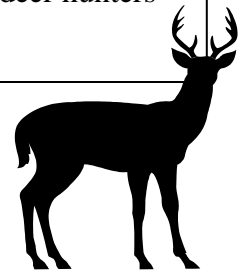
The second decision point is to identify the desired deer population that is needed. This step is probably a lot more difficult because it will require an understanding of landowners' acceptance/tolerance capacity for deer, which unfortunately is not a single

value. This will require public involvement strategies and processes to arrive at compromise decisions, but although difficult is possible. The steps used in this process could lead to a better understanding and appreciation of deer management by the public and for the job done by Game, Fish and Parks.

Appendix B contains optional comments provided by the resident East River and West River deer hunter respondents to the Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003 survey (provided at the end of the questionnaire).



Appendix C is a copy of the Report to Survey Participants sent to all deer hunters in the Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003 survey sample.





Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003 TABLES

Because 12 respondents removed their ID numbers that distinguishes between West River and East River hunting status, the combined total in all the following tables will not equal the sum of the West River and East River columns.



Table 1. Response rate for the resident deer hunter harvest evaluation survey in South Dakota 2003.

Parameters	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	Combined
Initial Sample Size	1,000	1,000	2,000
Undeliverable Questionnaires	6	3	9
Undeliverable Rate	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%
Final Sample Size	994	997	1,991
Total Number Returned ¹	765	773	1,550
Total Return Rate	77.0%	77.5%	77.9%
Number Returned Blank	11	21	32
Percent Returned Blank	1.1%	2.1%	1.6%
Total Number of Usable Questionnaires Returned	754	752	1,518
Return Rate for Usable Questionnaires	75.9%	75.4%	76.2%

¹12 respondents removed their ID number that is used to identify West River and East River status

Table 2. Number of total days of deer hunting in South Dakota (includes all types of deer hunting: rifle, archery, muzzleloader, etc.) by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003.

Days Deer Hunting in South Dakota – 2003	Resident Deer Hunters					
	West River		East River		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	24	3.2%	12	1.6%	36	2.4%
1	58	7.7%	59	7.9%	120	8.0%
2	102	13.6%	78	10.5%	181	12.0%
3	100	13.3%	74	10.0%	174	11.6%
4	92	12.3%	78	10.5%	170	11.3%
5	65	8.7%	70	9.4%	136	9.0%
6	52	6.9%	54	7.3%	106	7.0%
7	36	4.8%	51	6.9%	87	5.8%
8	31	4.1%	42	5.7%	74	4.9%
9	11	1.5%	13	1.7%	24	1.6%
10	45	6.0%	67	9.0%	114	7.6%
11-20	86	11.2%	101	13.6%	191	12.7%
21-30	32	4.2%	19	2.6%	51	3.4%
31-40	7	0.9%	11	1.5%	18	1.2%
41-50	8	1.0%	9	1.2%	17	1.1%
51-75	1	0.1%	3	0.4%	4	0.3%
76-99	1	0.1%	2	0.3%	3	0.2%
Total	751	100%	743	100%	1,506 ¹	100%
Median	4.00		6.00		5.00	
Mean	7.47		8.30		7.89	
(95% C.I.)	(6.83 – 8.11)		(7.60 – 9.00)		(7.41 – 8.36)	
ANOVA F=2.92; df=1 / 1,492; <i>p</i> =0.088						
Mean /(95% C.I.) → excluding those that did not hunt in 2003	7.72 (7.07 – 8.37)		8.44 (7.73 – 9.15)		8.08 (7.60 – 8.56)	

¹12 respondents left this question blank.

Table 3. Number (percent) and types of tags (includes all types of deer hunting: rifle, archery, muzzleloader, etc.) held by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003.

Number	Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters					
	Tags that permitted taking a buck		Antlerless tags		Combined Total Tags	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	123	10.9%	250	22.1%	0	0.0%
1	709	62.7%	623	55.1%	263	23.3%
2	226	20.0%	170	15.0%	513	45.4%
3	50	4.4%	48	4.2%	183	16.2%
4	13	1.2%	20	1.8%	91	8.1%
5	6	0.5%	8	0.7%	33	2.9%
6	3	0.3%	7	0.6%	17	1.5%
7	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	14	1.2%
8	0	0.0%	2	0.2%	6	0.5%
9	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.4%
10	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	2	0.2%
11	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.3%
Total Number	1,130	100%	1,130	100%	1,130	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.25 (1.20 – 1.30)		1.15 (1.09 – 1.21)		2.40 (2.32 – 2.49)	
Means & 95% C.I. comparing West River and East River						
West River Hunters	1.37 (1.31 – 1.43)		0.96 (0.89 – 1.02)		2.33 (2.23 – 2.43)	
East River Hunters	1.09 (1.02 – 1.17)		1.39 (1.28 – 1.50)		2.48 (2.34 – 2.62)	
ANOVA: <i>p</i> -value	<0.001		<0.001		=0.074	

Table 4. Evaluation of the total number of deer seen by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003 – *How would you rate the total number of DEER you saw this season for all your South Dakota deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few to 9 being lots of deer. Leave blank if you have no opinion.*

Rating Value	Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters					
	West River		East River		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1 – Very Few	39	5.3%	18	2.4%	57	3.9%
2	29	4.0%	25	3.4%	54	3.7%
3	73	10.0%	41	5.6%	115	7.8%
4	65	8.9%	73	9.9%	139	9.4%
5	123	16.8%	112	15.2%	236	16.0%
6	108	14.7%	109	14.8%	217	14.7%
7	146	19.9%	145	19.7%	294	19.9%
8	61	8.3%	75	10.2%	138	9.3%
9 – Lots of Deer	89	12.1%	137	18.6%	229	15.5%
Total	733	100%	735	100%	1,479 ¹	100%
Mean (95% C.I.)	5.66 (5.50 – 5.82)		6.18 (6.03 – 6.34)		5.93 (5.82 – 6.04)	
ANOVA F=21.36; df=1 / 1,466; <i>p</i> <0.001						

¹39 respondents left this question blank.

Table 5. What would you consider an optimal number of deer for you to harvest in a year, or in other words, on average how many total deer would you like to harvest every year?

Optimal Number of Deer	Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters					
	West River		East River		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	2	0.1%
1	183	25.1%	184	25.1%	368	25.0%
2	353	48.4%	329	44.9%	689	46.8%
3	89	12.2%	100	13.7%	191	13.0%
4	69	9.5%	68	9.3%	138	9.4%
5	19	2.6%	31	4.2%	50	3.4%
6	7	1.0%	10	1.4%	18	1.2%
7	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
8	3	0.4%	4	0.5%	7	0.5%
9	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
10	4	0.5%	1	0.1%	5	0.3%
11	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
12	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
20	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Total	729	100%	732	100%	1,473 ¹	100%
Median	2.00		2.00		2.00	
Mean	2.27		2.34		2.30	
(95% C.I.)	(2.17 – 2.36)		(2.23 – 2.44)		(2.23 – 2.38)	
ANOVA F=0.88; df=1 / 1,459; p=0.349						

¹45 respondents left this question blank (actually, 2 people listed 99 deer and were excluded as extreme data points).

Table 6. How many total deer did you harvest in South Dakota for the 2003 season (including the January 1 – 11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons)?

Number of Deer Harvested	Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters					
	Antlered Deer		Antlerless Deer		Total Deer	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	621	50.9%	656	53.8%	391	32.1%
1	493	40.4%	403	33.1%	392	32.2%
2	90	7.4%	115	9.4%	294	24.1%
3	12	1.0%	25	2.1%	75	6.2%
4	2	0.2%	10	0.8%	38	3.1%
5	0	0.0%	5	0.4%	13	1.1%
6	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	9	0.7%
7	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	4	0.3%
8	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
9	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
11	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
12	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Total Number	1,219	100%	1,219	100%	1,219	100%
Median	0		0		1.00	
Mean (95% C.I.)	0.60 (0.56 – 0.64)		0.66 (0.61 – 0.72)		1.26 (1.19 – 1.33)	
Means & 95% C.I. comparing West River and East River						
West River Hunters	0.66 (0.60 – 0.72)		0.54 (0.48 – 0.60)		1.20 (1.10 – 1.29)	
East River Hunters	0.52 (0.47 – 0.58)		0.80 (0.71 – 0.89)		1.32 (1.21 – 1.44)	
ANOVA: <i>p</i> -value	=0.001		<0.001		=0.099	

Table 7. Based on the total number of antlerless deer you harvested in 2003, would you have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer?

Wanted to have harvested more antlerless deer...	Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters					
	West River		East River		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	425	58.9%	348	49.2%	782	54.3%
YES	296	41.1%	359	50.8%	657	45.7%
Total	721	100%	707	100%	1,439	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=13.59$; $df=1$; $p<0.001$						
Analysis comparing response by number of antlerless deer harvested (West River and East River Hunters combined)...						
Number of Antlerless Deer Harvested	Would you have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer?					
	NO → see Table 7A		YES → see Table 7B			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
0	343	47.3%	304	48.8%		
1	267	36.8%	225	36.1%		
2	87	12.0%	66	10.6%		
3	15	2.1%	18	2.9%		
4 or more	13	1.8%	10	1.6%		
Total	725	100%	623	100%		
Average %		53.8%		46.2%		
Chi-square: $X^2=1.76$; $df=4$; $p=0.777$						

Table 7A. Possible reasons for why hunters did not want to harvest more antlerless deer.

Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters – Combined				
Reason	Importance or Reasons (scale)			
	Not a Reason (0)	Slightly Important (1)	Moderately Important (2)	Very Important (3)
I do not like to hunt antlerless deer.				
N=712	48.5%	17.0%	20.6%	13.9%
Mean →	1.00	95% C.I. →	0.91 – 1.08	
I already had all the deer meat I wanted.				
N=733	27.0%	11.6%	19.2%	42.2%
Mean →	1.77	95% C.I. →	1.67 – 1.86	

Table 7B. Possible reasons for why hunters did not harvest as many antlerless deer as they wanted.

Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters – Combined				
Reason	Importance or Reasons (scale)			
	Not a Reason (0)	Slightly Important (1)	Moderately Important (2)	Very Important (3)
I didn't have enough time to harvest all the deer that I wanted.				
N=622	42.9%	15.9%	20.7%	20.4%
Mean →	1.19	95% C.I. →	1.09 – 1.28	
I wasn't lucky enough to harvest all the deer I wanted.				
N=616	50.6%	13.1%	20.0%	16.2%
Mean →	1.02	95% C.I. →	0.93 – 1.11	
I could not get all the antlerless tags I wanted.				
N=615	72.5%	8.1%	8.0%	11.0%
Mean →	0.58	95% C.I. →	0.50 – 0.66	
I could not find good places to hunt deer.				
N=604	57.5%	14.9%	16.6%	11.1%
Mean →	0.81	95% C.I. →	0.73 – 0.90	
There just was not enough deer to shoot.				
N=610	61.6%	15.4%	10.0%	13.0%
Mean →	0.74	95% C.I. →	0.66 – 0.83	
I could not find a place to hunt for free.				
N=607	69.5%	8.1%	9.2%	13.2%
Mean →	0.66	95% C.I. →	0.57 – 0.75	
I did not want to pay for additional licenses.				
N=615	66.8%	9.8%	9.3%	14.1%
Mean →	0.71	95% C.I. →	0.62 – 0.80	

Table 8. Willingness to harvest antlerless deer - evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003.

Are you willing to harvest antlerless deer?	Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters					
	West River		East River		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	121	16.6%	76	10.3%	199	13.5%
YES	610	83.4%	659	89.7%	1,279	86.5%
Total	731	100%	735	100%	1,478 ¹	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.16$; $df=1$; $p<0.001$						
If YES, do you feel that the strategies implemented in 2003 helped you to harvest more antlerless deer than you normally would have harvested?						
NO	295	49.3%	252	38.8%	552	43.9%
YES → see Table 8A	303	50.7%	397	61.2%	705	56.1%
Total	598	100%	649	100%	1,257 ²	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.16$; $df=1$; $p<0.001$						

¹40 respondents left this question blank.

²22 respondents left this question blank.

Table 8A. Evaluation of strategies implemented in 2003 to harvest more antlerless deer.

Resident West River and East River Deer Hunters – Combined				
Strategy	Importance of Strategy (scale)			
	Not Important (0)	Slightly Important (1)	Moderately Important (2)	Very Important (3)
Reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses.				
N=696	17.7%	20.0%	23.6%	38.8%
Mean →	1.83	95% C.I. →	1.75 – 1.92	
An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season.				
N=696	12.1%	12.1%	30.7%	45.1%
Mean →	2.09	95% C.I. →	2.01 – 2.17	
An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags.				
N=695	14.1%	11.7%	30.5%	43.7%
Mean →	2.04	95% C.I. →	1.96 – 2.12	
An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5.				
N=693	31.9%	21.5%	24.8%	21.8%
Mean →	1.37	95% C.I. →	1.28 – 1.45	
An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota.				
N=698	23.5%	14.8%	27.5%	34.2%
Mean →	1.72	95% C.I. →	1.64 – 1.81	

Table 9A. Attitude towards strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses.

Reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses.		
Attitude (score)	West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose (-3)	34	2.3%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	30	2.0%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	40	2.7%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	320	21.7%
Slightly Support (1)	147	10.0%
Moderately Support (2)	292	19.8%
Strongly Support (3)	611	41.5%
Number	1,474	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	1.60	1.52 – 1.68
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	104	7.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	320	21.7%
SUPPORT	1,050	71.2%
Ratio: Support <i>to</i> Oppose	10.1 <i>to</i> 1	
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Attitude	West River	East River
Mean	1.54	1.67
95% C.I.	1.43 – 1.66	1.56 – 1.78
ANOVA F=2.56; df=1 / 1,461; <i>p</i> =0.110		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
OPPOSE	7.4%	6.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	24.2%	19.0%
SUPPORT	68.4%	74.4%
Total Number	730	733
Ratio: Support <i>to</i> Oppose	9.2 <i>to</i> 1	11.1 <i>to</i> 1
Chi-square: X^2 =6.83; df=2; <i>p</i> =0.033		

Table 9B. Attitude towards strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season.

An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season.		
Attitude (score)	West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose (-3)	79	5.3%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	39	2.6%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	33	2.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	219	14.7%
Slightly Support (1)	173	11.6%
Moderately Support (2)	343	23.1%
Strongly Support (3)	601	40.4%
Number	1,487	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	1.56	1.47 – 1.64
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	151	10.2%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	219	14.7%
SUPPORT	1,117	75.1%
Ratio: Support to Oppose	7.4 to 1	
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Attitude	West River	East River
Mean	1.44	1.68
95% C.I.	1.31 – 1.56	1.56 – 1.80
ANOVA F=7.91; df=1 / 1,475; p=0.005		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
OPPOSE	10.4%	9.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	17.6%	11.7%
SUPPORT	72.1%	78.5%
Total Number	734	743
Ratio: Support to Oppose	7.0 to 1	8.0 to 1
Chi-square: $X^2=10.80$; df=2; p=0.005		

Table 9C. Attitude towards strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags.

An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags.		
Attitude (score)	West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose (-3)	99	6.7%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	35	2.4%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	26	1.7%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	203	13.7%
Slightly Support (1)	165	11.1%
Moderately Support (2)	314	21.1%
Strongly Support (3)	644	43.3%
Number	1,486	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	1.57	1.48 – 1.66
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	160	10.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	203	13.7%
SUPPORT	1,123	75.6%
Ratio: Support to Oppose	7.0 to 1	
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Attitude	West River	East River
Mean	1.46	1.69
95% C.I.	1.33 – 1.59	1.56 – 1.81
ANOVA F=6.01; df=1 / 1,474; p=0.014		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
OPPOSE	12.0%	9.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	15.0%	12.0%
SUPPORT	73.0%	78.6%
Total Number	734	742
Ratio: Support to Oppose	6.1 to 1	8.3 to 1
Chi-square: $X^2=6.20$; df=2; p=0.045		

Table 9D. Attitude towards strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5.

An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5.		
Attitude (score)	West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose (-3)	145	9.8%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	81	5.4%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	92	6.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	416	28.0%
Slightly Support (1)	201	13.5%
Moderately Support (2)	220	14.8%
Strongly Support (3)	332	22.3%
Number	1,487	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	0.64	0.54 – 0.73
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	318	21.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	416	28.0%
SUPPORT	753	50.6%
Ratio: Support to Oppose	2.4 to 1	
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Attitude	West River	East River
Mean	0.51	0.77
95% C.I.	0.37 – 0.64	0.63 – 0.90
ANOVA F=7.27; df=1 / 1,475; p=0.007		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
OPPOSE	23.4%	19.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	30.0%	25.9%
SUPPORT	46.6%	54.7%
Total Number	736	741
Ratio: Support to Oppose	2.0 to 1	2.8 to 1
Chi-square: $X^2=9.64$; df=2; p=0.008		

Table 9E. Attitude towards strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota.

An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota.		
Attitude (score)	West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose (-3)	61	4.1%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	34	2.3%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	34	2.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	318	21.4%
Slightly Support (1)	195	13.1%
Moderately Support (2)	312	21.0%
Strongly Support (3)	530	35.7%
Number	1,484	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	1.43	1.35 – 1.51
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	129	8.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	318	21.4%
SUPPORT	1,037	69.9%
Ratio: Support to Oppose	8.0 to 1	
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Attitude	West River	East River
Mean	1.42	1.44
95% C.I.	1.30 – 1.54	1.32 – 1.55
ANOVA F=0.03; df=1 / 1,471; p=0.859		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
OPPOSE	9.4%	8.0%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	22.0%	21.1%
SUPPORT	68.6%	70.9%
Total Number	733	740
Ratio: Support to Oppose	7.3 to 1	8.9 to 1
Chi-square: X ² =1.30; df=2; p=0.523		

Hunters for the Hungry Program. This is a program that accepts donated deer, which is then processed and distributed to families that need food. Normally the program asks the hunters to pay the processing fee.

Table 10. How unlikely or likely would you be to harvest antlerless deer to donate to the “Hunters for the Hungry” program, IF you did not have to pay for the processing?

Hunters for the Hungry Program.		
Attitude (score)	West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Very Unlikely (-3)	112	7.5%
Moderately Unlikely (-2)	37	2.5%
Slightly Unlikely (-1)	28	1.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	169	11.3%
Slightly Likely (1)	140	9.4%
Moderately Likely (2)	293	19.7%
Very Likely (3)	710	47.7%
Number	1,489	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	1.66	1.57 – 1.75
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
UNLIKELY	177	11.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	169	11.3%
LIKELY	1,143	76.8%
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Attitude	West River	East River
Mean	1.61	1.72
95% C.I.	1.48 – 1.75	1.60 – 1.85
ANOVA F=1.38; df=1 / 1,477; p=0.241		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
UNLIKELY	12.5%	11.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	11.4%	11.3%
LIKELY	76.1%	77.6%
Total Number	737	742
Chi-square: $X^2=0.76$; df=2; p=0.685		

Table 11. Evaluation of strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by combined resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – Did you do any hunting during the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season?

Hunt during the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season	Combined West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
NO	1,081	72.4%
YES	413	27.6%
Total	1,494 ¹	100%
If YES, did you harvest any deer during this time period?		
NO	290	70.6%
YES	121	29.4%
Total	411 ²	100%
And if YES, did you have any problems finding a place to hunt and/or getting permission to hunt on private land during this time period?		
No Problems	258	63.2%
Some Minor Problems	64	15.7%
A Moderate Amount of Problems	52	12.7%
A Lot of Problems	34	8.3%
Total	408 ³	100%
Deer harvested during this time period:		
1	101	86.3%
2	14	12.0%
3	1	0.9%
4	1	0.9%
Total	117 ⁴	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.16	1.08 – 1.25

¹24 respondents left this question blank.

²2 respondents left this question blank.

³5 respondents left this question blank.

⁴4 respondents left this question blank.

Table 11A. Evaluation of strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation comparing resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – Did you do any hunting during the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season?

Hunt during the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season	Resident Deer Hunters	
	West River	East River
NO	80.2%	64.6%
YES	19.8%	35.4%
Total Number	739	745
Chi-square: $X^2=45.62$; $df=1$; $p<0.001$		
If YES, did you harvest any deer during this time period?		
NO	69.0%	71.5%
YES	31.0%	28.5%
Total Number	145	263
Chi-square: $X^2=0.29$; $df=1$; $p=0.593$		
And if YES, did you have any problems finding a place to hunt and/or getting permission to hunt on private land during this time period?		
No Problems	63.2%	63.2%
Some Minor Problems	13.2%	16.9%
A Moderate Amount of Problems	12.5%	13.0%
A Lot of Problems	11.1%	6.9%
Total Number	144	261
Chi-square: $X^2=2.78$; $df=3$; $p=0.426$		
Deer harvested during this time period:		
1	88.6%	84.7%
2	9.1%	13.9%
3	0.0%	1.4%
4	2.3%	0.0%
Total	44	72
Mean (95% C.I.)	1.16 (1.00 – 1.32)	1.17 (1.07 – 1.26)
ANOVA $F=0.01$; $df=1 / 114$; $p=0.931$		

Table 12. Evaluation of strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by combined resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – Did you do any hunting during the additional antlerless deer season from January 1 – 11 (2004)?

Hunt hunting during the additional antlerless deer season from January 1 – 11 (2004)?	Combined East River and West River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
NO	1,104	73.9%
YES	390	26.1%
Total	1,494 ¹	100%
If YES, did you harvest any deer during this time period?		
NO	242	62.1%
YES	148	37.9%
Total	390	100%
And if YES, did you have any problems finding a place to hunt and/or getting permission to hunt on private land during this time period?		
No Problems	255	66.4%
Some Minor Problems	52	13.5%
A Moderate Amount of Problems	43	11.2%
A Lot of Problems	34	8.9%
Total	384 ²	100%
Deer harvested during this time period:		
1	118	81.4%
2	24	16.6%
3	2	1.4%
4	1	0.7%
Total	145 ³	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.21	1.13 – 1.29

¹24 respondents left this question blank.

²6 respondents left this question blank.

³3 respondents left this question blank.

Table 12A. Evaluation of strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation comparing resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – Did you do any hunting during the additional antlerless deer season from January 1 – 11 (2004)?

Hunt hunting during the additional antlerless deer season from January 1 – 11 (2004)?	Resident Deer Hunters	
	West River	East River
NO	82.3%	65.4%
YES	17.7%	34.6%
Total	740	743
Chi-square: $X^2=54.73$; $df=1$; $p<0.001$		
If YES, did you harvest any deer during this time period?		
NO	54.2%	65.8%
YES	45.8%	34.2%
Total	131	257
Chi-square: $X^2=4.92$; $df=1$; $p=0.027$		
And if YES, did you have any problems finding a place to hunt and/or getting permission to hunt on private land during this time period?		
No Problems	65.9%	66.8%
Some Minor Problems	10.9%	14.6%
A Moderate Amount of Problems	10.1%	11.9%
A Lot of Problems	13.2%	6.7%
Total	129	253
Chi-square: $X^2=5.17$; $df=3$; $p=0.160$		
Deer harvested during this time period:		
1	79.7%	82.6%
2	16.9%	16.3%
3	1.7%	1.2%
4	1.7%	0.0%
Total	59	86
Mean (95% C.I.)	1.25 (1.10 – 1.40)	1.19 (1.10 – 1.20)
ANOVA $F=0.68$; $df=1 / 143$; $p=0.411$		

Table 13. Evaluation of strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation by combined resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – Did you purchase any antlerless deer licenses after the regular season started?

Did you purchase any antlerless deer licenses after the regular season started?	Combined East River and West River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
NO	1,448	96.8%
YES	48	3.2%
Total	1,496 ¹	100%
If YES, did you have any problems purchasing the license using the new process designed to make it easier to get deer license after the start of the season?		
No Problems	41	85.4%
Some Minor Problems	3	6.3%
A Moderate Amount of Problems	2	4.2%
A Lot of Problems	2	4.2%
Total	48	100%

¹22 respondents left this question blank.

Table 13A Evaluation of strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest (evaluation comparing resident West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – Did you purchase any antlerless deer licenses after the regular season started?

Did you purchase any antlerless deer licenses after the regular season started?	Resident Deer Hunters	
	West River	East River
NO	98.2%	95.6%
YES	1.8%	4.4%
Total	741	744
Chi-square: $X^2=8.89$; df=1; $p=0.003$		
If YES, did you have any problems purchasing the license using the new process designed to make it easier to get deer license after the start of the season?		
No Problems	62.9%	90.9%
Some Minor Problems	15.4%	3.0%
A Moderate Amount of Problems	7.7%	3.0%
A Lot of Problems	7.7%	3.0%
Total	13	33
Chi-square: $X^2=3.63$; df=3; $p=0.304$		

Table 14. Satisfaction with deer hunting in South Dakota (evaluation by West River and East River deer hunters in 2003) – *Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total South Dakota deer hunting experience last year (2003)?*

Satisfaction – 2003 (scale)	Combined West River and East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Very Satisfied (+3)	397	27.2%
Moderately Satisfied (+2)	480	32.9%
Slightly Satisfied (+1)	187	12.8%
Neutral/No Opinion (0)	130	8.9%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	121	8.3%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	81	5.6%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	63	4.3%
Number	1,459 ¹	100%
Mean / 95% C. I.	1.28	1.19 – 1.37
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
SATISFIED	1,064	72.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	130	8.9%
DISSATISFIED	265	18.2%
Ratio: Satisfied : Dissatisfied	4.0 to 1	
Comparing West River and East River Deer Hunters		
Satisfaction	West River	East River
Mean	1.26	1.25
95% C.I.	1.13 – 1.39	1.17 – 1.42
ANOVA F=0.15; df=1 / 1,446; <i>p</i> =0.704		
Summarized Attitude	West River	East River
SATISFIED	19.3%	17.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	8.6%	9.4%
DISSATISFIED	72.2%	73.6%
Total Number	722	726
Ratio: Satisfied : Dissatisfied	3.7 to 1	4.3 to 1
Chi-square: $X^2=1.28$; df=2; <i>p</i> =0.527		

¹59 respondents left this question blank.

Motivations for Deer Hunting

Tables 15A-15G. **Reasons for deer hunting– *People enjoy hunting for many different reasons, please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt deer.* [evaluation by resident West River and East River deer hunters]**

Table 15A. Importance of reason: To bring meat home for food.

IMPORTANCE	Meat		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%
1	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
2	7.9%	6.6%	7.2%
3	11.9%	7.9%	9.9%
4	17.7%	14.6%	16.3%
5	17.9%	22.3%	20.0%
6	9.5%	13.1%	11.3%
7 Very Important	22.6%	23.2%	22.9%
NUMBER	733	732	1,476
MEAN¹	4.33	4.54	4.43
95% C. I.	4.18 – 4.49	4.38 – 4.69	4.32 – 4.54

¹ANOVA: F=3.39; df=1/1,463; p=0.066

Table 15B. Importance of reason: To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.

IMPORTANCE	Nature		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
1	0.0%	0.7%	0.5%
2	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
3	1.8%	2.0%	1.9%
4	3.7%	6.4%	5.0%
5	9.8%	11.7%	10.9%
6	19.6%	21.7%	20.6%
7 Very Important	64.1%	56.6%	60.2%
NUMBER	733	733	1,477
MEAN¹	6.37	6.19	6.27
95% C. I.	6.29 – 6.45	6.10 – 6.27	6.21 – 6.33

¹ANOVA: F=9.45; df=1/1,464; p=0.002

Table 15C. Importance of reason: For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.

IMPORTANCE	Excitement		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%
1	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
2	1.1%	0.5%	0.8%
3	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%
4	6.1%	4.9%	5.6%
5	12.1%	12.0%	12.1%
6	22.6%	23.7%	23.1%
7 Very Important	54.4%	55.8%	55.1%
NUMBER	733	731	1,475
MEAN¹	6.11	6.20	6.15
95% C. I.	6.02 – 6.21	6.11 – 6.29	6.09 – 6.21

¹ANOVA: F=1.85; df=1/1,462; p=0.174

Table 15D. Importance of reason: Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.

IMPORTANCE	Social		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%
1	0.3%	1.1%	0.7%
2	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
3	1.1%	2.3%	1.7%
4	4.0%	4.4%	4.3%
5	9.6%	9.7%	9.8%
6	19.1%	22.4%	20.8%
7 Very Important	64.2%	58.2%	60.9%
NUMBER	732	732	1,475
MEAN¹	6.33	6.17	6.25
95% C. I.	6.24 – 6.42	6.08 – 6.27	6.18 – 6.31

¹ANOVA: F=5.44; df=1/1,462; p=0.020

Table 15E. Importance of reason: To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.

IMPORTANCE	Trophy		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	8.6%	10.8%	9.6%
1	6.4%	8.2%	7.3%
2	5.9%	6.4%	6.2%
3	8.6%	8.1%	8.4%
4	16.1%	16.8%	16.4%
5	20.1%	15.2%	17.6%
6	13.5%	11.1%	12.3%
7 Very Important	20.8%	23.4%	22.2%
NUMBER	732	731	1,474
MEAN¹	4.35	4.19	4.27
95% C. I.	4.20 – 4.51	4.02 – 4.36	4.16 – 4.39

¹ANOVA: F=1.98; df=1/1,461; p=0.160

Table 15F. Importance of reason: To spend time alone in the woods/field.

IMPORTANCE	Solitude		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	4.9%	6.8%	5.8%
1	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%
2	4.2%	4.7%	4.5%
3	5.1%	7.9%	6.5%
4	13.6%	14.0%	13.8%
5	17.7%	15.6%	16.6%
6	20.7%	17.5%	19.0%
7 Very Important	29.9%	29.5%	29.6%
NUMBER	730	731	1,472
MEAN¹	5.03	4.83	4.92
95% C. I.	4.89 – 5.18	4.67 – 4.98	4.82 – 5.03

¹ANOVA: F=3.65; df=1/1,459; p=0.056

Table 15G. Importance of reason: For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer and dealing with the elements.

IMPORTANCE	Challenge		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
0 Not At All Important	1.8%	3.1%	2.4%
1	2.2%	1.9%	2.1%
2	2.3%	3.3%	2.8%
3	4.2%	3.7%	4.0%
4	9.4%	10.5%	9.9%
5	14.9%	16.5%	15.7%
6	26.9%	21.9%	24.3%
7 Very Important	38.3%	39.1%	38.8%
NUMBER	732	732	1,475
MEAN¹	5.61	5.49	5.55
95% C. I.	5.49 – 5.73	5.36 – 5.62	5.46 – 5.64

¹ANOVA: F=1.80; df=1/1,462; p=0.180

Table 16. Average rating of importance of reasons for deer hunting comparing resident West River and East River 2003 deer hunters.

West River Hunters			East River Hunters		
Rank	Reason	Mean	Rank	Reason	Mean
1	Nature	6.37	1	Excitement	6.20
2	Social	6.33	2	Nature	6.19
3	Excitement	6.11	3	Social	6.17
4	Challenge	5.61	4	Challenge	5.49
5	Solitude	5.03	5	Solitude	4.83
6	Trophy	4.35	6	Meat	4.54
7	Meat	4.33	7	Trophy	4.19

Table 17. Main reason for liking deer hunting – Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **deer hunting**?

TOP REASON	Resident Deer Hunters – 2003 ¹		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family. (Social)	30.9%	27.5%	29.0%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc. (Excitement)	18.9%	22.3%	20.6%
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area. (Nature)	19.7%	16.4%	18.2%
To bring meat home for food. (Meat)	9.4%	12.7%	11.0%
For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer & dealing with the elements (Challenge)	8.7%	10.3%	9.6%
To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment. (Trophy)	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%
To spend time alone in the woods. (Solitude)	3.8%	2.1%	2.9%
NUMBER	715	726	1,451

¹Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=13.88$; $df=6$; $p=0.031$

Table 18. Summary of mean ratings of seven possible reasons for liking hunting deer in South Dakota for each of the **types** of resident West River and East River deer hunters (2003).

REASONS	Types of Deer Hunters (Resident West River and East River)						
	Social	Excitement	Nature	Meat	Challenge	Trophy	Solitude
Social	6.73	6.09	6.37	5.91	6.01	5.86	5.39
Excitement	5.97	6.59	6.31	5.65	6.19	6.15	5.83
Nature	6.20	6.17	6.82	5.05	6.30	5.90	6.43
Meat	4.07	4.32	4.23	6.54	4.44	3.82	3.98
Challenge	5.14	5.68	5.71	4.67	6.73	6.05	5.90
Trophy	3.97	4.63	3.78	2.84	5.01	6.69	3.69
Solitude	4.29	4.96	5.60	4.36	5.90	4.72	6.60

% Sample	29.0%	20.6%	18.2%	11.0%	9.6%	8.7%	2.9%
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“Harvest” Attitudes of West River and East River Deer Hunters

Table 19. Resident West River and East River deer hunter attitudes toward “harvest” (2003).

Attitude (scale)	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
A deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.			
Strongly Agree (+2)	55.0%	44.7%	49.7%
Slightly Agree (+1)	28.6%	29.5%	29.1%
Neutral/No Opinion (0)	8.3%	10.7%	9.4%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	5.6%	10.1%	7.9%
Strongly Disagree (-2)	2.5%	5.1%	3.8%
Number	733	732	1,476
Mean	1.28	0.99	1.13
95% C.I.	1.21 – 1.35	0.90 – 1.07	1.07 – 1.19
Chi-sq=26.11; df=4; $p<0.001$			
ANOVA: F=26.35; df=1/1,463; $p<0.001$			
I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.			
Strongly Agree (+2)	6.4%	6.0%	6.2%
Slightly Agree (+1)	9.2%	5.7%	7.4%
Neutral/No Opinion (0)	16.7%	13.0%	14.9%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	20.8%	20.5%	20.6%
Strongly Disagree (-2)	46.9%	54.7%	50.8%
Number	731	731	1,473
Mean	-0.93	-1.12	-1.02
95% C.I.	-1.02 – -0.83	-1.21 – -1.03	-1.09 – -0.96
Chi-sq=13.58; df=4; $p=0.009$			
ANOVA: F=9.28; df=1/1,460; $p=0.002$			
Filling my deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.			
Strongly Agree (+2)	16.0%	22.8%	19.5%
Slightly Agree (+1)	28.7%	30.9%	29.7%
Neutral/No Opinion (0)	23.6%	21.8%	22.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	15.7%	13.4%	14.6%
Strongly Disagree (-2)	16.0%	11.1%	13.4%
Number	732	731	1,474
Mean	0.13	0.41	0.27
95% C.I.	0.03 – 0.22	0.32 – 0.50	0.21 – 0.34

Chi-sq=17.88; df=4; $p=0.001$			
ANOVA: F=17.23; df=1/1,461; $p<0.001$			

Table 19 continued on next page.

Table 19. Continued... Resident West River and East River deer hunter attitudes toward “harvest” (2003).

Attitude (scale)	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.			
Strongly Agree (+2)	17.1%	15.0%	16.1%
Slightly Agree (+1)	20.2%	16.0%	18.0%
Neutral/No Opinion (0)	17.2%	14.5%	15.9%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	17.5%	15.8%	16.8%
Strongly Disagree (-2)	27.9%	38.7%	33.3%
Number	731	732	1,474
Mean	-0.19	-0.47	-0.33
95% C.I.	-0.30 – -0.08	-0.58 – -0.36	-0.41 – -0.26
Chi-sq=19.71; df=4; $p=0.001$			
ANOVA: F=13.30; df=1/1,461; $p<0.001$			

Deer Hunting Methods

Table 20. Types of deer hunting methods normally used by resident West River and East River deer hunters and their favorite deer hunting method (2003).

Deer Hunting Methods Used	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
Rifle	99.5%	99.3%	99.4%
Handgun	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%
Archery	21.4%	18.2%	19.8%
Muzzleloader	6.9%	7.9%	7.4%
Number of Cases	749	747	1,507
Mean Number of Methods	1.31	1.29	1.30
95% C.I.	1.27 – 1.35	1.25 – 1.33	1.27 – 1.33
ANOVA: F=0.58; df=1/1,494; p=0.448			
Favorite Deer Hunting Method	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
Rifle	85.6%	84.1%	84.8%
Handgun	0.4%	0.9%	0.7%
Archery	12.5%	12.9%	12.7%
Muzzleloader	1.5%	2.0%	1.8%
Number	743	743	1,496
Chi-sq=2.36; df=3; p=0.501			

Deer Hunting History – 2003

Table 21. Types of deer hunting licenses held by resident West River and East River deer hunters for year 2003.

Deer Season / License Type	Received License	
	West River	East River
1. East River Deer	2.7%	98.1%
2. East River Special Buck	1.8%	1.4%
3. West River Deer	97.3%	13.4%
4. West River Special Buck	1.9%	0.4%
5. Black Hills Deer	10.1%	3.7%
6. Archery Deer (Statewide)	9.4%	8.9%
7. Archery Deer (West River)	4.0%	1.4%
8. Archery Deer (East River)	2.9%	6.0%
9. Antlerless Archery Deer	2.9%	4.0%
10. Refuge Deer	0.3%	0.4%
11. Muzzleloader Deer	4.0%	4.9%
12. Landowner/Operator Special Deer	1.9%	1.2%
13. Youth Deer	1.2%	2.1%
14. Custer State Park Deer	0.0%	0.0%
15. S.D. tribal deer license	1.0%	0.5%
16. a deer license in <u>another</u> state	1.9%	1.1%
Number of Hunters	732	729
Overall Mean Types of Licenses	1.43	1.48
95% C.I.	1.38 – 1.49	1.41 – 1.54
ANOVA: F=1.08; df=1/1,459; p=0.299		

Demographic Description of West River and East River Deer Hunters

Table 22. Rural land-ownership by resident West River and East River deer hunters (2003).

Do you own land outside town/city?	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
NO	67.2%	63.3%	64.9%
YES	32.8%	36.7%	35.1%
Number	747	744	1,502
Chi-sq=2.50; df=1; $p=0.114$			
If yes, how much land do you own (excluding leased land)?			
Do you own land outside town/city?	West River Hunters ¹	East River Hunters ²	COMBINED
1 – 99	43.6%	26.7%	34.7%
100 – 499	23.1%	38.5%	31.0%
500 – 999	11.1%	15.4%	13.1%
1,000 – 4,999	16.4%	17.8%	17.3%
5,000 – 9,999	4.0%	0.4%	2.3%
10,000 or more	1.8%	1.2%	1.7%
Number	225	247	481
Mean Acres	891	665	861
95% C.I.	633 – 1,149	499 – 830	642 – 1,081
Chi-sq=27.69; df=5; $p<0.001$			
ANOVA: $F=2.19$; df=1/470, $p=0.139$			

¹8.0% of the West River deer hunters that owned land outside town/city owned 160 acres.

²8.5% of the East River deer hunters that owned land outside town/city owned 160 acres.

Table 23. Percent of resident West River and East River deer hunters that were farmers/ranchers (2003).

Are you a farmer/rancher?	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
NO	77.4%	71.7%	74.3%
Yes – Part-time	10.8%	12.9%	11.8%
YES – Full-time	11.8%	15.4%	13.8%
Number	739	738	1,488
Chi-sq=6.59; df=2; $p=0.037$			

Table 24. Resident West River and East River deer hunters' home county (2003).

COUNTY	Resident Deer Hunters	
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters
1. Minnehaha	8.9%	15.0%
2. Pennington	18.4%	0.8%
3. Brown	1.2%	9.3%
4. Beadle	0.4%	4.2%
5. Codington	1.5%	5.3%
6. Brookings	2.2%	4.3%
7. Yankton	1.6%	3.0%
8. Davison	0.7%	4.2%
9. Lawrence	6.2%	0.8%
10. Aurora	0.3%	1.2%
11. Bennett	0.5%	0.0%
12. Bon Homme	0.7%	1.2%
13. Brule	0.8%	1.3%
14. Buffalo	0.0%	0.3%
15. Butte	4.7%	0.0%
16. Campbell	0.0%	0.3%
17. Charles Mix	1.5%	2.3%
18. Clark	0.0%	0.9%
19. Clay	0.1%	0.9%
20. Croson	0.3%	0.0%
21. Custer	1.8%	0.1%
22. Day	0.0%	2.0%
23. Deuel	0.0%	0.9%
24. Dewey	0.9%	0.0%
25. Douglas	0.8%	1.5%
26. Edmunds	0.1%	1.5%
27. Fall River	2.8%	0.0%
28. Faulk	0.0%	1.1%
29. Grant	0.4%	3.1%
30. Gregory	5.1%	0.0%
31. Haakon	1.6%	0.0%
32. Hamlin	0.4%	1.9%
33. Hand	0.1%	0.8%
34. Hanson	0.0%	0.4%
35. Harding	1.1%	0.0%
36. Hughes	3.7%	3.4%
37. Hutchinson	0.3%	1.5%

38. Hyde	0.1%	0.1%
39. Jackson	1.5%	0.0%
40. Jerauld	0.1%	0.1%

Table continued on next page.

Table 24. Continued... Resident West River and East River deer hunters' home county (2003).

COUNTY	Resident Deer Hunters	
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters
41. Jones	0.7%	0.0%
42. Kingsbury	0.1%	2.7%
43. Lake	0.5%	1.6%
44. Lincoln	2.2%	3.6%
45. Lyman	2.6%	0.5%
46. McCook	0.8%	1.9%
47. McPherson	0.1%	0.7%
48. Marshall	0.0%	2.3%
49. Meade	7.6%	0.3%
50. Mellette	0.9%	0.0%
51. Miner	0.4%	0.7%
52. Moody	0.1%	1.8%
53. Perkins	2.3%	0.0%
54. Potter	0.0%	0.9%
55. Roberts	0.3%	2.7%
56. Sanborn	0.1%	0.4%
57. Spink	0.1%	2.0%
58. Stanley	0.8%	0.0%
59. Sully	0.1%	0.5%
60. Tripp	5.0%	0.0%
61. Turner	1.8%	1.3%
62. Union	0.7%	1.8%
63. Walworth	1.2%	0.9%
64. Ziebach	0.1%	0.0%
65. Shannon	0.5%	0.0%
67. Todd	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL	739	741
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
Black Hills Counties¹	36.8%	2.0%
West River Counties, including Black Hills	65.4%	2.0%
East River Counties	34.6%	98.0%

¹Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

Table 25. Age distribution of 2003 resident West River and East River deer hunters.

AGE CATEGORY	West River	East River	AGE CATEGORY	West River	East River
12 – 14	3.9%	3.5%	12 – 19	12.1%	10.9%
15 – 17	4.2%	5.5%	20 – 29	14.1%	16.1%
18 – 20	5.4%	4.0%	30 – 39	18.2%	19.1%
21 – 24	5.5%	7.0%	40 – 49	23.2%	25.1%
25 – 29	7.2%	7.0%	50 – 59	20.1%	16.1%
30 – 34	8.4%	9.7%	60 – 69	9.5%	7.9%
35 – 39	9.8%	9.4%	70 – 79	2.1%	4.6%
40 – 44	12.3%	14.0%	80 – 89	0.7%	0.1%
45 – 49	10.9%	11.2%			
50 – 54	11.4%	10.5%			
55 – 59	8.7%	5.6%			
60 – 64	5.8%	4.3%			
65 – 69	3.8%	3.6%			
70 – 74	1.3%	3.4%			
75 – 79	0.8%	1.2%			
80 – 84	0.5%	0.1%			
85 – 89	0.1%	0.0%			
TOTAL	746	744	TOTAL	746	744
Median	42.0	41.0			
Mean	41.0	40.5			
(95% C.I.)	(39.9 – 42.1)	(39.4 – 41.7)			
ANOVA: F=0.32; df=1/488, p=0.574					
Chi-sq=22.44; df=16; p=0.129			Chi-sq=15.73; df=7; p=0.028		

Table 26. Gender of 2003 resident West River and East River deer hunters.

SEX	West River Hunters		East River Hunters	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	697	93.3%	695	93.0%
Female	50	6.7%	52	7.0%
Total	747	100%	747	100%
Chi-sq=0.42; df=1; p=0.837				

Understanding Deer Harvest Using the Motivations Model

Table 27. Average number of total days of deer hunting in South Dakota in 2003 (includes all types of deer hunting: rifle, archery, muzzleloader, etc. and including the January 1 – 11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons) analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Hunter Type - Motivations	Mean Days	95% C.I.
Social	5.51	4.98 – 6.03
Meat	7.61	6.29 – 8.93
Excitement	8.39	7.33 – 9.46
Trophy	8.74	6.88 – 10.60
Nature	9.05	7.69 – 10.40
Solitude	9.17	5.68 – 12.66
Challenge	10.32	8.30 – 12.34
Average	7.82	7.34 – 8.30
ANOVA: F=7.51; df=6/1,433; $p<0.001$		

Table 28. Average number of “buck” tags, antlerless deer tags and total tags held by West River and East River deer hunters analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Number Buck Tags	95% C.I.
Meat	1.06	0.90 – 1.22
Social	1.15	1.08 – 1.21
Excitement	1.23	1.11 – 1.35
Nature	1.33	1.22 – 1.45
Trophy	1.35	1.19 – 1.51
Solitude	1.39	1.13 – 1.66
Challenge	1.48	1.28 – 1.68
Average	1.25	1.20 – 1.29
ANOVA: F=4.17; df=6/1,079; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Number Antlerless Tags	95% C.I.
Trophy	0.91	0.74 – 1.07
Social	1.03	0.93 – 1.12
Solitude	1.12	0.86 – 1.38
Excitement	1.18	1.02 – 1.34
Challenge	1.19	0.96 – 1.41
Nature	1.19	1.04 – 1.35
Meat	1.48	1.25 – 1.71
Average	1.14	1.08 – 1.21
ANOVA: F=3.55; df=6/1,079; $p=0.002$		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Number Total Tags	95% C.I.
Social	2.17	2.05 – 2.30
Trophy	2.26	2.00 – 2.522
Excitement	2.41	2.20 – 2.62
Solitude	2.52	2.09 – 2.94
Nature	2.53	2.31 – 2.74
Meat	2.54	2.22 – 2.85
Challenge	2.67	2.36 – 2.98
Average	2.39	2.30 – 2.48
ANOVA: F=2.56; df=6/1,079; $p=0.018$		

Table 29. Average number of antlered deer, antlerless deer and total deer harvest by West River and East River deer hunters in South Dakota in 2003 analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Harvest by West River and East River Deer Hunters in South Dakota in 2003		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Number Antlered Deer	95% C.I.
Social	0.54	0.45 – 0.62
Solitude	0.56	0.29 – 0.82
Meat	0.57	0.46 – 0.69
Nature	0.59	0.50 – 0.68
Excitement	0.60	0.51 – 0.68
Trophy	0.70	0.55 – 0.85
Challenge	0.71	0.58 – 0.84
Average	0.60	0.55 – 0.64
ANOVA: F=1.29; df=6/1,165; $p=0.257$		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Number Antlerless Deer	95% C.I.
Trophy	0.49	0.35 – 0.63
Nature	0.57	0.44 – 0.69
Social	0.57	0.48 – 0.65
Solitude	0.72	0.42 – 1.02
Excitement	0.74	0.62 – 0.87
Challenge	0.76	0.54 – 0.98
Meat	1.02	0.78 – 1.25
Average	0.67	0.61 – 0.72
ANOVA: F=4.89; df=6/1,165; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Number Total Deer	95% C.I.
Social	1.10	0.97 – 1.24
Nature	1.15	0.99 – 1.32
Trophy	1.19	0.98 – 1.41
Solitude	1.28	0.82 – 1.74
Excitement	1.34	1.19 – 1.50
Challenge	1.47	1.19 – 1.76
Meat	1.59	1.31 – 1.87
Average	1.26	1.19 – 1.34
ANOVA: F=3.10; df=6/1,165; $p=0.005$		

Table 30. Average optimal number of deer that hunters would like to harvest analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Optimal Number of Deer	95% C.I.
Social	2.13	1.99 – 2.28
Excitement	2.22	2.08 – 2.35
Trophy	2.27	2.02 – 2.53
Nature	2.29	2.13 – 2.44
Solitude	2.49	2.04 – 2.94
Challenge	2.54	2.28 – 2.81
Meat	2.68	2.47 – 2.89
Average	2.30	2.23 – 2.37
ANOVA: $F=4.02$; $df=6/1,408$; $p=0.001$		

Table 31. Mean satisfaction of West River and East River deer hunters with their total 2003 South Dakota deer hunting experience analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Satisfaction ¹	95% C.I.
Trophy	0.80	0.46 – 1.14
Meat	1.11	0.83 – 1.40
Social	1.32	1.15 – 1.48
Nature	1.32	1.12 – 1.53
Solitude	1.38	0.91 – 1.85
Excitement	1.41	1.23 – 1.60
Challenge	1.45	1.19 – 1.72
Average	1.29	1.20 – 1.37
ANOVA: $F=2.53$; $df=6/1,426$; $p=0.019$		

¹See Table 14 for the satisfaction scale.

Table 32. Mean attitude towards the strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless Deere harvest analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses.		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Trophy	1.02	0.70 – 1.35
Excitement	1.58	1.41 – 1.75
Social	1.60	1.46 – 1.74
Solitude	1.60	1.12 – 2.07
Challenge	1.60	1.34 – 1.87
Nature	1.81	1.63 – 1.98
Meat	1.87	1.64 – 2.11
Average	1.61	1.53 – 1.69
ANOVA: F=4.61; df=6/1,410; $p<0.001$		
An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season.		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Trophy	1.06	0.71 – 1.40
Nature	1.54	1.33 – 1.75
Challenge	1.55	1.24 – 1.85
Social	1.55	1.39 – 1.71
Excitement	1.65	1.47 – 1.84
Solitude	1.67	1.13 – 2.21
Meat	1.95	1.73 – 2.17
Average	1.57	1.49 – 1.66
ANOVA: F=3.52; df=6/1,423; $p=0.002$		
An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags.		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Trophy	1.02	0.65 – 1.39
Nature	1.55	1.33 – 1.78
Excitement	1.56	1.37 – 1.76
Solitude	1.57	0.97 – 2.17
Social	1.62	1.46 – 1.78
Challenge	1.72	1.43 – 2.10
Meat	1.88	1.63 – 2.13

Average	1.58	1.49 – 1.67
ANOVA: F=3.08; df=6/1,422; $p=0.005$		

¹See Tables 9A – 9E for the attitude scale.

Table continued on next page.

Table 32. Continued...Mean attitude towards the strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless Deere harvest analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5.		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Trophy	0.29	-0.07 – 0.66
Excitement	0.57	0.37 – 0.77
Social	0.57	0.40 – 0.75
Challenge	0.58	0.26 – 0.90
Nature	0.68	0.44 – 0.93
Solitude	0.83	0.22 – 1.45
Meat	1.25	0.98 – 1.52
Average	0.65	0.55 – 0.75
ANOVA: F=3.89; df=6/1,423; $p=0.001$		
An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota.		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Trophy	0.89	0.55 – 1.23
Challenge	1.40	1.10 – 1.70
Social	1.40	1.25 – 1.55
Nature	1.49	1.29 – 1.70
Excitement	1.52	1.35 – 1.69
Meat	1.61	1.35 – 1.86
Solitude	1.76	1.34 – 2.19
Average	1.43	1.34 – 1.51
ANOVA: F=3.22; df=6/1,419; $p=0.004$		

¹See Tables 9A – 9E for the attitude scale.

Table 33. Mean likelihood of participating in the Hunters for the Hungry Program if processing fees were not required of the hunter analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Participation in the Hunters for the Hungry Program if Processing Fees Were Not Required...		
Hunter Type – Motivations	Mean Likelihood¹	95% C.I.
Meat	1.23	0.90 – 1.56
Trophy	1.41	1.04 – 1.78
Solitude	1.57	0.98 – 2.16
Social	1.70	1.54 – 1.86
Excitement	1.75	1.55 – 1.94
Challenge	1.78	1.48 – 2.07
Nature	1.85	1.64 – 2.05
Average	1.66	1.57 – 1.75
ANOVA: F=2.65; df=6/1,425; $p=0.015$		

¹See Table 10 for the likelihood scale.

Table 34. Willingness to harvest antlerless deer analyzed by hunter type based on the dominant motivation for deer hunting.

Hunter Type – Motivations	Are you willing to harvest antlerless deer?	
	NO	YES
Meat (N=156)	3.2%	96.8%
Solitude (N=42)	11.9%	88.1%
Challenge (N=137)	12.4%	87.6%
Excitement (N=290)	13.1%	86.9%
Social (N=409)	13.2%	86.8%
Nature (N=259)	14.3%	85.7%
Trophy (N=124)	25.0%	75.0%
Number (N=1,417)	187	1,230
Average	13.2%	86.8%
Chi-sq=29.08; df=6; $p<0.001$		

Understanding Deer Harvest Using a Harvest Attitude Model

Table 35. Description of the 5-cluster harvest attitude model.¹

Group	Success Important		Success Linked to Satisfaction		Buck Hunter Only		Large Buck Hunter	
	Fits	Value ²	Fits	Value ²	Fits	Value ²	Fits	Value ²
1	No	-0.73	No	1.66	Yes	0.89	Yes	0.93
2	Yes	1.50	No	0.52	No	-1.71	No	-1.61
3	Yes	0.58	Yes	-0.90	Mixed	0.04	Yes	0.60
4	No	-0.44	No	1.67	No	-1.59	No	-1.58
5	Yes	0.52	No	1.52	No	-1.44	Yes	1.07

¹The “harvest attitude” model is based on deer hunters’ responses to the follow set of four questions:

- Filling my deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me. [**Success Important**]
- A deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer. [**Success Linked to Satisfaction**]
- I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e.; I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license. [**Buck Hunter Only**]
- I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards. [**Large Buck Hunter**]

² Responses to these items are coded as –2 = strongly disagree; -1 = slightly disagree; 0 = neutral or no opinion; +1 = slightly agree, and +2 = strongly agree.

Table 36. Number and percent of hunters (West River and East River rifle deer hunters) in each of the five groups in the harvest attitude model.

Harvest Attitude Groups	Number	Percent
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	232	15.8%
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	323	22.0%
Group 3 – Trophy/Success	143	9.7%
Group 4 – Social/Nature	413	28.1%
Group 5 – All-round Deer	359	24.4%
Total	1,470	100%

Table 37. Average number of total days of deer hunting in South Dakota in 2003 (includes all types of deer hunting: rifle, archery, muzzleloader, etc. and including the January 1 – 11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons) analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Days	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	7.80	6.53 – 9.07
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	6.69	5.86 – 7.51
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	7.12	6.00 – 8.24

Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	6.89	6.04 – 7.75
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	10.51	9.32 – 11.71
Average	7.89	7.41 – 8.37
ANOVA: F=9.89; df=4/1,454; $p<0.001$		

Table 38. Average number of “buck” tags, antlerless deer tags and total tags held by West River and East River deer hunters analyzed by hunter type based on the based on the harvest attitude model.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Number Buck Tags	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	1.46	1.32 – 1.59
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.08	0.98 – 1.18
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.06	0.93 – 1.19
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.13	1.05 – 1.21
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.46	1.35 – 1.56
Average	1.25	1.20 – 1.30
ANOVA: F=13.00; df=4/1,093; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Number Antlerless Tags	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	0.78	0.65 – 0.90
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.25	1.11 – 1.39
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.07	0.88 – 1.26
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.07	0.96 – 1.18
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.36	1.23 – 1.50
Average	1.14	1.08 – 1.20
ANOVA: F=9.96; df=4/1,093; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Number Total Tags	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	2.23	2.03 – 2.43
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	2.33	2.14 – 2.52
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	2.13	1.89 – 2.36
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	2.20	2.06 – 2.33
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	2.81	2.62 – 3.01
Average	2.39	2.30 – 2.48
ANOVA: F=9.83; df=4/1,093; $p<0.001$		

Table 39. Average number of antlered deer, antlerless deer and total deer harvest by West River and East River deer hunters in South Dakota in 2003 analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Harvest by West River and East River Deer Hunters in South Dakota in 2003		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Number Antlered Deer	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	0.53	0.43 – 0.63
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	0.63	0.51 – 0.74
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	0.56	0.43 – 0.69
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	0.50	0.44 – 0.57
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	0.73	0.65 – 0.81
Average	0.60	0.56 – 0.64
ANOVA: F=4.43; df=4/1,185; $p=0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Number Antlerless Deer	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	0.28	0.18 – 0.38
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	0.81	0.70 – 0.92
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	0.73	0.58 – 0.87
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	0.64	0.53 – 0.75
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	0.81	0.69 – 0.93
Average	0.66	0.61 – 0.72
ANOVA: F=12.18; df=4/1,185; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Number Total Deer	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	0.81	0.65 – 0.97
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.44	1.26 – 1.62
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.29	1.09 – 1.49
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.14	1.01 – 1.28
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.53	1.38 – 1.69
Average	1.26	1.19 – 1.34
ANOVA: F=11.58; df=4/1,185; $p<0.001$		

Table 40. Average optimal number of deer that hunters would like to harvest analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Optimal Number of Deer	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	1.98	1.74 – 2.21
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	2.35	2.21 – 2.49
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	2.35	2.12 – 2.58
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	2.20	2.07 – 2.32
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	2.59	2.45 – 2.74
Average	2.31	2.24 – 2.38
ANOVA: F=7.69; df=4/1,428; $p<0.001$		

Table 41. Mean satisfaction of West River and East River deer hunters with their total 2003 South Dakota deer hunting experience analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Satisfaction ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	1.18	0.97 – 1.40
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.17	0.97 – 1.37
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	0.86	0.54 – 1.18
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.56	1.41 – 1.71
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.30	1.12 – 1.48
Average	1.28	1.20 – 1.37
ANOVA: F=5.54; df=4/1,446; $p<0.001$		

¹See Table 14 for the satisfaction scale.

Table 42. Mean attitude towards the strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless Deere harvest analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses.		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	1.03	0.81 – 1.25
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.76	1.60 – 1.93
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.36	1.06 – 1.65
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.76	1.63 – 1.90
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.79	1.64 – 1.93
Average	1.61	1.53 – 1.69
ANOVA: F=12.56; df=4/1,431; $p<0.001$		
An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season.		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	0.70	0.44 – 0.95
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.95	1.79 – 2.11
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.52	1.24 – 1.80
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.70	1.54 – 1.85
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.69	1.53 – 1.86
Average	1.58	1.49 – 1.66
ANOVA: F=21.79; df=4/1,443; $p<0.001$		
An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags.		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	0.74	0.48 – 1.00
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.86	1.69 – 2.03
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.53	1.24 – 1.82
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.83	1.67 – 1.98
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.59	1.40 – 1.78
Average	1.58	1.49 – 1.67
ANOVA: F=17.88; df=4/1,443; $p<0.001$		

¹See Tables 9A – 9E for the attitude scale.

Table continued on next page.

Table 42. Continued...Mean attitude towards the strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless Deere harvest analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5.		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	-0.21	-0.46 – 0.04
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	0.89	0.69 – 1.08
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	0.88	0.56 – 1.20
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	0.72	0.54 – 0.89
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	0.81	0.62 – 1.01
Average	0.65	0.55 – 0.74
ANOVA: F=15.10; df=4/1,443; $p<0.001$		
An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota.		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Attitude¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	1.00	0.77 – 1.23
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.59	1.43 – 1.76
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.41	1.13 – 1.68
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.54	1.39 – 1.69
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.44	1.27 – 1.62
Average	1.43	1.35 – 1.51
ANOVA: F=5.31; df=4/1,439; $p<0.001$		

¹See Tables 9A – 9E for the attitude scale.

Table 43. Mean likelihood of participating in the Hunters for the Hungry Program if processing fees were not required of the hunter analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Participation in the Hunters for the Hungry Program if Processing Fees Were Not Required...		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Mean Likelihood¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	1.60	1.35 – 1.84
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	1.31	1.10 – 1.53
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	1.31	0.96 – 1.66

Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	1.85	1.69 – 2.00
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	1.93	1.76 – 2.10
Average	1.66	1.57 – 1.75
ANOVA: F=7.60; df=4/1,445; $p<0.001$		

¹See Table 10 for the likelihood scale.

Table 44. Willingness to harvest antlerless deer analyzed by hunter type based on the harvest attitude model.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Are you willing to harvest antlerless deer?		
	NO	YES	Number
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	43.9%	56.1%	228
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	4.8%	95.2%	315
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	18.8%	81.2%	138
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	6.2%	93.8%	403
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	7.9%	92.1%	353
Number	194	1,243	1,437
Average →	13.5%	86.5%	100%
Chi-sq=29.08; df=6; $p<0.001$			

Table 45. Motivations of the harvest-attitude deer hunter groups.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	To bring meat home for food. (Meat)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	2.97	2.69 – 3.25
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	5.47	5.29 – 5.66
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	4.43	4.09 – 4.78
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	4.39	4.18 – 4.60
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	4.53	4.34 – 4.72
Average	4.44	4.34 – 4.55
ANOVA: F=54.60; df=4/1,464; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area. (Nature)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	6.34	6.21 – 6.48
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	6.10	5.96 – 6.24
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	5.89	5.63 – 6.15
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	6.38	6.28 – 6.48
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	6.40	6.30 – 6.50
Average	6.27	6.21 – 6.33

ANOVA: $F=8.10$; $df=4/1,465$; $p<0.001$

Table continued on next page.

Table 45. Continued...Motivations of the harvest-attitude deer hunter groups.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc. (Excitement)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	6.28	6.15 – 6.41
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	6.04	5.89 – 6.19
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	5.81	5.54 – 6.08
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	6.09	5.96 – 6.22
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	6.38	6.28 – 6.48
Average	6.15	6.09 – 6.22
ANOVA: $F=7.05$; $df=4/1,463$; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	Enjoying the time spent with friends/family. (Social)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	6.39	6.26 – 6.53
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	6.11	5.96 – 6.26
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	5.96	5.71 – 6.21
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	6.39	6.27 – 6.51
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	6.24	6.11 – 6.37
Average	6.25	6.18 – 6.31
ANOVA: $F=4.79$; $df=4/1,463$; $p=0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment. (Trophy)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	5.13	4.89 – 5.38
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	3.58	3.33 – 3.84
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	5.16	4.83 – 5.49
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	3.37	3.15 – 3.58
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	5.04	4.84 – 5.24
Average	4.28	4.16 – 4.39
ANOVA: $F=55.34$; $df=4/1,462$; $p<0.001$		

Table continued on next page.

Table 45. Continued...Motivations of the harvest-attitude deer hunter groups.

Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	To spend time alone in the woods. (Solitude)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	5.27	5.02 – 5.51
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	4.45	4.21 – 4.69
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	4.20	3.79 – 4.60
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	4.94	4.74 – 5.14
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	5.40	5.22 – 5.58
Average	4.92	4.82 – 5.03
ANOVA: F=15.55; df=4/1,460; $p<0.001$		
Hunter Type – Harvest Attitude Group	For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer & dealing with the elements (Challenge)	
	Mean ¹	95% C.I.
Group 1 – Buck Hunter	5.88	5.70 – 6.07
Group 2 – Meat Hunter	5.09	4.88 – 5.30
Group 3 – Trophy/Success Hunter	5.51	5.21 – 5.82
Group 4 – Social/Nature Hunter	5.41	5.24 – 5.59
Group 5 – All-round Deer Hunter	5.93	5.79 – 6.07
Average	5.55	5.46 – 5.64
ANOVA: F=13.50; df=4/1,463; $p<0.001$		

¹Rating of the importance of the motivations ranged from 0 = Not Important to 7 = Very Important

Comparing the Hunter Motivation Model with the Harvest Attitude Model

Table 46. Comparing the hunter motivations model with the harvest attitude model.

Hunter Type – Motivations	Hunter Types - Harvest Attitude Model ¹				
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
Meat	1.3%	25.6%	7.8%	10.0%	6.3%
Nature	18.1%	12.3%	10.6%	22.7%	21.3%
Excitement	17.7%	23.7%	27.0%	18.8%	19.3%
Social	33.2%	26.9%	25.5%	33.0%	24.7%
Trophy	12.8%	4.1%	19.1%	2.9%	12.5%
Solitude	3.5%	1.3%	2.8%	3.9%	2.8%
Challenge	13.3%	6.0%	7.1%	8.6%	13.1%
Total Number	226	316	141	409	352
Average →	15.7%	21.9%	9.8%	28.3%	24.4%
Chi-sq=189.21; df=24; $p<0.001$					

¹Group 1 = Buck Hunter, Group 2 = Meat Hunter, Group 3 = Trophy/Success Hunter, Group 4 = Social/Nature Hunter, Group 5 = All-round Deer Hunter

Table 47. Comparing the harvest attitude model with hunter motivations model.

Harvest Attitude Types ¹	Hunter Types - Motivations						
	Meat	Nature	Excitement	Social	Trophy	Solitude	Challenge
Group 1	1.9%	15.6%	13.4%	17.9%	23.2%	19.0%	21.4%
Group 2	51.3%	14.8%	25.2%	20.3%	10.4%	9.5%	13.6%
Group 3	7.0%	5.7%	12.8%	8.6%	21.6%	9.5%	7.1%
Group 4	25.9%	35.4%	25.8%	32.3%	9.6%	38.1%	25.0%
Group 5	13.9%	28.5%	22.8%	20.8%	35.2%	23.8%	32.9%
Total Number	158	263	298	418	125	42	140
Average →	10.9%	18.2%	20.6%	28.9%	8.7%	2.9%	9.7%
Chi-sq=189.21; df=24; $p<0.001$							

¹Group 1 = Buck Hunter, Group 2 = Meat Hunter, Group 3 = Trophy/Success Hunter, Group 4 = Social/Nature Hunter, Group 5 = All-round Deer Hunter

Hunters' Evaluation of the Deer Population

Table 48. Hunters' evaluation of the 2003 deer population analyzed by their willingness to harvest antlerless deer.

Are you willing to harvest antlerless deer?	Deer Population Rating ¹	95% C.I.
NO	5.35	5.03 – 5.68
YES	6.03	5.92 – 6.15
Average	5.94	5.83 – 6.06
ANOVA: F=16.43; df=4/1,441; $p<0.001$		

¹See Table 4 for deer population rating scale.

Appendix A

Deer Harvest Evaluation - 2003

**Questionnaire used in the survey
and two follow-up cover letters.**

Deer Harvest Evaluation - 2003



Natural Resource Management
with YOU in mind

February 2004

Dear South Dakota Deer Hunter,

The general purpose of this survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of the various strategies that were implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless deer harvest. The issue facing wildlife managers is, how can we get the yearly harvest of antlerless deer needed to keep the deer population under control and also to provide quality hunting opportunities for South Dakota hunters? Please take some time to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti

Game, Fish & Parks

523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501



DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- It is important that the person to whom this was addressed fill out the questionnaire, even if someone else in your family is a more active deer hunter. This will ensure that the results accurately represent all East River and West River deer hunters.
- Your response is important even if you did not hunt East River or West River deer this year because it is important to include your responses so that the results accurately represent all East River and West River deer hunters.
- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially (meaning that your name will never be associated with your responses). The questionnaire has an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls.
- Please try to answer what you believe to be true for you. The best answer is the one that most closely reflects your own feelings and beliefs, or what you actually did.
- A summary of results will be sent to all participants in this survey, and a copy of the complete report will be available upon request (please do not request a copy of the report until you have first received the summary in the mail).
- If you have any questions about the **survey** contact Larry Gigliotti @ 605-773-4231 (e-mail: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us).
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate please check this box ☐ and return your blank questionnaire.
- Please return your questionnaire using the postage-paid business reply envelope.



We realize that asking you to complete this lengthy questionnaire is no small contribution. We want to assure you that the information will be used responsibly and for the benefit of making good management decisions. It is important to periodically evaluate our hunting seasons from the hunter's perspective and to collect hunter opinions on possible management issues that may affect hunters. This survey is your opportunity to participate in the management process.

Evaluation of the 2003 East & West River Deer Seasons Focus on the Efforts to Increase Harvest of Antlerless Deer in 2003

The purpose of this survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of the various strategies that were implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless deer harvest. The strategies implemented in 2003 were:

1. reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses
2. an extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” tags will be changed to their respective antlerless tags)
3. an additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” tags will be changed to their respective antlerless tags)
4. an increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5
5. an ability for East River deer hunters to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the region (previously hunters had to go the Pierre to buy licenses once the season started)

1. About how many total days of deer hunting (include all types of deer hunting: rifle, archery, muzzleloader, etc.) did you do in South Dakota in 2003, including the January 1 – 11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons:

[] Estimated Total Number of **Days** of Deer Hunting for the 2003 Seasons

2. For the 2003 South Dakota deer seasons (including the January 1 – 11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons), how many total **tags** did you have of each category (include all types of deer hunting, rifle, archery, muzzleloader, etc, for all South Dakota deer season):

- a. [] Number of “any deer,” “any buck deer,” “any whitetail deer,” and “any mule deer” **tags** (i.e. tags that permitted taking a buck)
- b. [] Number of antlerless **tags**

3. How would you rate the total number of **DEER** you saw this season for all your South Dakota deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few to 9 being lots of deer. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

VERY FEW

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

LOTS OF DEER

4. What would you consider an optimal number of deer for you to harvest in a year, or in other words, on average how many total deer would you like to harvest every year?

[_____] DEER (total number of deer that you would like to harvest per year)

5. How many total deer did you harvest in South Dakota for the 2003 season (including the January 1 – 11, 2004 extended antlerless deer seasons):

a. [_____] Total number of antlered deer

b. [_____] Total number of antlerless deer (includes button-bucks)

6. Based on your answer to question number 5b above, would you have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer?

ρ 1. NO → please answer the questions in Box A

ρ 2. YES → please answer the questions in Box B

Box A – Possible reasons for why you did not want to harvest more antlerless deer.

Please evaluate each of the reasons for why you did not want more antlerless deer than the number you harvested. *Please circle one number for each reason to indicate how important the reason was for why you did not want more antlerless deer.*

	Not a <u>Reason</u>	Slightly Important <u>Reason</u>	Moderately Important <u>Reason</u>	Very Important <u>Reason</u>
1. I do not like to hunt antlerless deer.....	1	2	3	4
2. I already had all the deer meat I wanted.....	1	2	3	4

Box B –Possible reasons for why you did not harvest as many antlerless deer as you wanted.

Please evaluate each of the reasons for why you did not harvest the number of antlerless deer that you wanted. *Please circle one number for each reason to indicate how important the reason was for why you did not harvest all the antlerless deer that you wanted.*

	Not a <u>Reason</u>	Slightly Important <u>Reason</u>	Moderately Important <u>Reason</u>	Very Important <u>Reason</u>
1. I didn't have enough time to harvest all the deer that I wanted.....	1	2	3	4
2. I wasn't lucky enough to harvest all the deer I wanted.....	1	2	3	4
3. I could not get all the antlerless tags I wanted.....	1	2	3	4
4. I could not find good places to hunt deer.....	1	2	3	4
5. There just was not enough deer to shoot.....	1	2	3	4
6. I could not find a place to hunt for free.....	1	2	3	4
7. I did not want to pay for additional licenses..	1	2	3	4

7. Are you willing to harvest antlerless deer?

ρ 1. NO → please continue on to question number 8

ρ 2. YES

♣ If yes, do you feel that the strategies implemented in 2003 (see beginning of the questionnaire for list of strategies) helped you to harvest more antlerless deer than you normally would have harvested?

ρ 1. NO → please continue on to question number 8

ρ 2. YES → please answer the questions in Box C before continuing

Box C

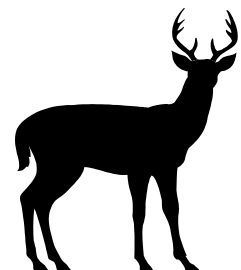
Please evaluate each of the strategies listed below as to how important it was in helping you to harvest more antlerless deer this past deer season.

	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>
1. Reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses.....	1	2	3	4
2. An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season.....	1	2	3	4
3. An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags.....	1	2	3	4
4. An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5.....	1	2	3	4
5. An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota	1	2	3	4

8. How strongly do you oppose or support each of the strategies for years when GFP determines that more antlerless deer need to be harvested?

a). Reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses

<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Moderately Oppose</u>	<u>Slightly Oppose</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Support</u>	<u>Moderately Support</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



- b). An extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season

<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Moderately Oppose</u>	<u>Slightly Oppose</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Support</u>	<u>Moderately Support</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- c). An additional antlerless season from January 1 – 11 for any unsold and unfilled tags

<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Moderately Oppose</u>	<u>Slightly Oppose</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Support</u>	<u>Moderately Support</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- d). An increase in the maximum number of licenses that a person may purchase from 3 to 5

<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Moderately Oppose</u>	<u>Slightly Oppose</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Support</u>	<u>Moderately Support</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- e). An ability to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the State of South Dakota

<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Moderately Oppose</u>	<u>Slightly Oppose</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Support</u>	<u>Moderately Support</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Hunters for the Hungry Program. This is a program that accepts donated deer, which is then processed and distributed to families that need food. Normally the program asks the hunters to pay the processing fee.

9. How unlikely or likely would you be to harvest antlerless deer to donate to the “Hunters for the Hungry” program, **IF** you did not have to pay for the processing?

<u>Very Unlikely</u>	<u>Moderately Unlikely</u>	<u>Slightly Unlikely</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Likely</u>	<u>Moderately Likely</u>	<u>Very Likely</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

10. Did you do any hunting during the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle seasons?

ρ 1. NO

ρ 2. YES → if yes, please answer the questions in Box D

Box D

D-1.	Did you harvest any deer during this time period?			
	ρ 1. NO			
	ρ 2. YES → if yes, How many? [_____]			
D-2.	Did you have any problems finding a place to hunt and/or getting permission to hunt on private land during this time period?			
	No <u>Problems</u>	Some Minor <u>Problems</u>	A Moderate Amount <u>of Problems</u>	A Lot of <u>Problems</u>
	1	2	3	4

11. Did you do any hunting during the additional antlerless deer season from January 1 – 11 (2004)?

ρ 1. NO

ρ 2. YES → if yes, please answer the questions in Box E

Box E

E-1.	Did you harvest any deer during this time period?			
	ρ 1. NO			
	ρ 2. YES → if yes, How many? [_____]			
E-2.	Did you have any problems finding a place to hunt and/or getting permission to hunt on private land during this time period?			
	No <u>Problems</u>	Some Minor <u>Problems</u>	A Moderate Amount <u>of Problems</u>	A Lot of <u>Problems</u>
	1	2	3	4

12. Did you purchase any antlerless deer licenses after the regular season started?

ρ 1. NO

ρ 2. YES → if yes, please answer the questions in Box F

Box F

F-1.	Did you have any problems purchasing the license using the new process designed to make it easier to get deer license after the start of the season?			
	No <u>Problems</u>	Some Minor <u>Problems</u>	A Moderate Amount <u>of Problems</u>	A Lot of <u>Problems</u>
	1	2	3	4

13. Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total South Dakota deer hunting experience last year (2003)? *Please circle only one response.*

<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

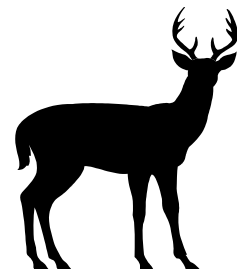
Motivations for Deer Hunting

14. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt **deer**. *Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).*

		NOT IMPORTANT					VERY IMPORTANT		
a)	To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b)	To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c)	For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d)	Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e)	To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f)	To spend time alone in the woods/field.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g)	For the challenges associated with “outsmarting” a deer and dealing with the elements.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

15. Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **deer hunting**? *Please circle one letter below.*

a b c d e f g



Deer Hunting History – 2003

16. What are the total types of deer licenses that you had for this year (2003)? *Please check (\) all the types of deer licenses you received (including West River licenses).*

<u>Deer Season/License Type</u>	<u>Received License:</u>
1. East River Deer	1. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
2. East River Special Buck	2. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
3. West River Deer	3. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
4. West River Special Buck	4. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
5. Black Hills Deer	5. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
6. Archery Deer (Statewide)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
7. Archery Deer (West River)	7. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
8. Archery Deer (East River)	8. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
9. Antlerless Archery Deer	9. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
10. Refuge Deer	10. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
11. Muzzleloader Deer	11. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
12. Landowner/Operator Special Deer	12. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
13. Youth Deer	13. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
14. Custer State Park Deer	14. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
15. S.D. tribal deer license	15. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ
16. a deer license in <u>another</u> state	16. <input type="checkbox"/> ρ

Attitudes about Deer Hunting and Harvest

17. Here are some statements that deal with your feelings/preferences related to deer hunting. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. *Please circle one number for each item.*

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	NEUTRAL/ NO OPINION	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
a) A deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) Filling my deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not					

measure up to my standards... 1 2 3 4 5

18. Which types of deer hunting methods do you normally do in a year? *Please check all that apply.*

☐ 1. rifle ☐ 2. handgun ☐ 3. archery ☐ 4. muzzleloader

19. Which is your favorite deer hunting method? *Please check only one response.*

☐ 1. rifle ☐ 2. handgun ☐ 3. archery ☐ 4. muzzleloader

Information about Yourself

20. Do you own land outside town/city?

☐ 1. NO

☐ 2. YES

♣ If yes, how much land do you own (excluding leased land)? _____ACRES

21. Are you a farmer/rancher? ☐ 1. NO ☐ 2. YES–Part-time ☐ 3. YES–Full-time

22. What is your county of residence? _____ County

23. What is your age? _____

24. What is your gender? ☐ 1. MALE ☐ 2. FEMALE

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. We will send all participants a copy of the summary results when the report is completed.

To return your questionnaire, fold it in half and return it using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.

You can use the space on the next page for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public.



Optional Comments: We are especially interested in hearing any ideas you may have that you feel would help increase the harvest of antlerless deer in areas where it is determined that there are too many deer.



Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

March 17, 2004

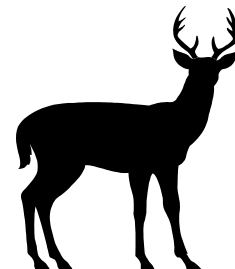
Dear resident East/West River deer hunter:

You have been randomly selected to participate in a survey to help evaluate the effectiveness of the various strategies designed to increase antlerless deer harvest that were implemented in last year's (2003) East River and West River deer seasons. About four weeks ago I sent you a questionnaire on the 2003 deer harvest evaluation (blue-covered booklet). As of today I have not received your completed questionnaire. If you have already returned your questionnaire than it has likely crossed this letter in the mail and you can disregard this reminder letter. If not, this letter is to remind you to complete and return your questionnaire

This is an opportunity to let us know your opinion about various aspects related to the East River and West River deer seasons. If you don't have an opinion on any specific questions just mark the "no opinion" response, as it is still valuable information to know the percentage of hunters that do not have an opinion on these topics. This information is very important. **If you do not wish to participate in this survey please check (✓) the box on the inside cover of the questionnaire (in the set of instructions) and return your questionnaire.**

If you have not received a questionnaire or it has been misplaced or discarded I have included a second questionnaire. This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate just check the box on the inside cover near the bottom and return your blank questionnaire. However, I encourage you to participate as this survey benefits deer hunters by providing an accurate description of the opinions, needs and desires of resident deer hunters

Sincerely,
Larry M. Gigliotti





Office of Secretary: 605/773-3387 Wildlife Division: 605/773-3381 Parks and Recreation Division: 605/773-3391 FAX: 605/773-6245
TDD: 605/773-3485

Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

April 8, 2004

Dear resident East/West River deer hunter:

Please help us evaluate the past East and West River deer season. You have been randomly selected to participate in a survey to help evaluate the effectiveness of the various strategies designed to increase antlerless deer harvest that were implemented in last year's (2003) East River and West River deer seasons. As of today I have not received your completed questionnaire. If you have already returned your questionnaire than it has likely crossed this letter in the mail and you can disregard this reminder letter. If not, this letter is to remind you to complete and return your questionnaire. Also, if you removed your ID number from the questionnaire before returning it, we have your information and will use it, but of course have not been able to remove you from the follow-up mailings.

A number of changes in the deer season were put into effect for the 2003 deer season to help increase the harvest of antlerless deer. The purpose of this survey is to evaluate these changes based on the perspective of the hunters. So far we have had almost 70% response rate to this survey, but we are making one last attempt to get more input before we do the final analysis. The deadline for responding to this survey has been extended to **May 6, 2004**. This is the last reminder for this survey.

This is an opportunity to let us know your opinion about various aspects related to the East River and West River deer seasons. If you don't have an opinion on any specific questions just mark the "*no opinion*" response, as it is still valuable information to know the percentage of hunters that do not have an opinion on these topics. This information is very important. **If you do not wish to participate in this survey please check (✓) the box on the inside cover of the questionnaire (in the set of instructions) and return your questionnaire.**

If your questionnaire has been misplaced or discarded I have included a second questionnaire. This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate just check the box on the inside cover near the bottom and return your blank questionnaire. However, I



encourage you to participate as this survey benefits deer hunters by providing an accurate description of the opinions, needs and desires of resident deer hunters

Sincerely,

Larry M. Gigliotti

Office of Secretary: 605/773-3387 Wildlife Division: 605/773-3381 Parks and Recreation Division: 605/773-3391 FAX: 605/773-6245
TDD: 605/773-3485

Appendix B. Optional comments provided by respondents at the end of the questionnaire.

Deer Harvest Evaluation - 2003



ID numbers 1 – 1000 are comments from hunters drawn from 2003 West River resident deer hunters and ID numbers 1001 – 2000 are comments from hunters drawn from 2003 East River resident deer hunters. ID numbers in the 9000 range are from hunters that removed their questionnaire ID number.

ID: 1

Finding places to hunt is getting harder each year, and the open areas are getting more and more crowded. Cutting down on the buck tags and allowing those that draw doe tags to purchase additional tags would cut down on the hunting pressure, or getting a way to allow us to hunt on private land would be nice.

ID: 2

I would of like for you to have transferred white-tail rifle tags to mule deer tags in Harding County. I refused to shoot a white-tail because of the disease the white-tail suffered. I didn't even hunt them in Harding County.

ID: 4

If you want more antlerless deer taken, landowners need to allow access. We see so many articles in the news lately about landowners denying access, wanting special tags,

money to hunt and complaining about GF&P land purchases and trespass. It's crazy!

GF&P do a very good job. GF&P should buy land for wildlife production and hunting purposes. GF&P should not give all their money to the ranchers by paying for hunting access. If ranchers think they have too many deer, they need to allow free hunting access to deal with that problem.

ID: 5

- Earn a buck program might work . . . shoot a doe first and then receive a buck tag for that area.
- One buck tag with two doe tags – tag package \$45.
- Muzzleloader season between archery and rifle.
 - I have a muzzleloader and do not use it because of the season dates.
 - The season is late and the deer are already spooked.
- Side note; road hunting is terrible in this state.

ID: 6

I hunted for white-tail in Harding County. I saw very few deer and the ones we did see were very small.

ID: 12

I can only seem to get my Black Hills deer license every other year. I usually do both at the same time. I really miss that. As far as the extended hunt is concerned, limiting it to private land only shuts out most people including myself. I hunt on the National Grasslands, and I watch deer go back and forth from private to public lands all day long, unless the landowner is profiting from it. The extended hunt is missing the harvest target.

ID: 16

- Do not combine archery with pheasant hunting. Put archery first, so deer are not all shook up.
- I don't hunt bucks because they taste nasty.

ID: 19

I am in favor for extending the deer season for deer only, but not in January. Also, two tags could be three tags for the same price as two if reduction of the deer herd is needed.

ID: 24

I have just one comment and it doesn't relate to deer hunting.

I fish Angostura Reservoir a lot. Why did Game, Fish and Parks remove all the crappie? That made every fishermen very mad. There is such a surplus of shad there. I would think that Game, Fish and Parks would keep the crappie there to help control their population.

ID: 25

- I like what you have implemented.
- One extra week in January would be good. By the time I get back from Christmas and settled, the first week is shot.
- The only reason for dissatisfaction this year was not GF&P's fault. I had to work too much and the drought pushed most of the deer off my normal archery spot, so the deer numbers were pretty low.

ID: 26

- Free extra tags in areas that need increased harvest.
- Reduced or free processing for Hunters for the Hungry Program.

ID: 31

I did not have the impression that there are too many deer. I saw fewer deer on public lands in 2003, than I have in the past 10 years. It seems to me that, except for local circumstances like urban deer, the idea that there are too many deer comes from a small minority of the populace (perhaps ranchers and farmers). I do not think you will be successful in getting more antlerless deer harvested by keeping to private lands. I will no longer subject myself or my boys to the ranting and ravings of ranchers and farmers that I have had to endure while asking permission to hunt on private lands (it mattered not if I asked months or weeks before the hunting season or during it). I have probably spent 10 tanks of gas in that generally fruitless endeavor. For every one property owner who will give you permission, there are 20 who will chew your ear off about the evils of GF&P, hunters, state government, federal government, the weather, etc. (they are especially hard to get along with when their federal subsidy checks are late). Even if you get permission, a \$100 trespass fee is often asked for. I and friends of mine have literally logged thousands of miles in Meade County with little to show for the tasks, except for a lot of guff. God Bless the ones that just say no.

In my opinion, no depredation funds should be paid to property owners who do not allow access to their property to hunters. Big game ranches that charge thousands of dollars for a hunt should be taxes as commercial entities, not agricultural entities. I only hunt public lands or Walk-In Areas. Time after time, I see game stacked up on private lands adjacent to public lands where landowners refuse permission (deer saved for pay hunters, family, friends, etc.). Then after hunting season, they complain about all of the deer coming off public lands to raid their lands. It seems to me they complain with their hands out. The ones who want control of licenses really want selective law enforcement. Anything goes for them and their pay hunters including shooting out of trucks and ATV's, off roads, any sex, whatever, but if some non-paying hunter accidentally wanders onto their property, they want him punished to the fullest extent of the law. I have had experiences with those crooks from _____ trying to get permission to hunt a doe. All I heard was about how public hunters are poachers and trespassers, etc., etc., when all the while they were breaking every game law in the books, year after year. Extending a season or tag restricted to private lands, though it sounds like a good idea, will be largely fruitless due to the landowners themselves.

ID: 33

The total number of deer in south Bennett County were almost non-existent due to over-hunting of antlerless deer over the past years. When the population is so low, you do not harvest antlerless deer or you will lose your herd. Does a rancher butcher all his cows when he wants to increase his numbers? I don't think so. I hope GF&P is not getting greedy just to get more money and not care about the numbers of deer.

ID: 34

Difficulty in processing our deer if the weather is too warm. Affects the number of deer I would harvest.

ID: 43

I believe youth hunts are the best way to harvest antlerless deer. Encourage private lands to open up for youth hunts. Walk-In Areas are great, but they are so close to non-hunting areas it is hard to tell where they begin and end, even with the signs.

ID: 44

Too many hunters in Units 327A, 327B and 327C.

ID: 54

CWD must be addressed and implications should be made known to the hunters (consumers) and the public.

ID: 58

I will not hunt East River deer due to many Iron Horse hunters. My boys (2) and I have enjoyed West River and Harding County because it is strictly walk-in and out on private land. Thanks GF&P for the enjoyment and memories for me and my family.

ID: 64

I saw lots of mule deer, but I had only white-tail tags. Saw very few white-tail.

ID: 67

Something needs to be done about the hunting in the Cave Hills in Harding County. We have been hunting there as a family since 1975, and there is not enough deer there to support the number of tags issued. The ranchers in that area hate deer hunters. You can ask all you want and never get permission to hunt on any worthwhile land. Both north and south of the Cave Hills areas are affected. You are selling double tags for an area that doesn't have that kind of population of deer. Once the hunt starts on Saturday, the deer move from the Cave Hills to the surrounding private land. Then you can go home because there is no way to get to them.

We will never pay to hunt deer on private land. We used to have some good relationships with some ranchers out there, but their attitudes with the GF&P has gone from bad to worse.

Two things: 1) cut down on the number of tags for the Cave Hills area. 2) Seek some private land around that area to set up as Walk-In Areas. I will not be going back out there this year for the first time since 1975. Maybe in the future things will improve. Thanks for your ear.

ID: 68

At age 55, I have enjoyed many satisfying deer hunts and killed many deer. A few years ago, I bought 80 acres of land with a creek, meadows and trees, so I could hunt without being harassed by landowners and other hunters.

I have found I now enjoy living with the deer, rather than hunting them. I understand the importance of proper deer maintenance and find myself hunting mostly to maintain proper numbers of deer. Last year we had too many deer and I should have harvested about 1 to 15 deer. This year they got a disease and almost all died. Therefore, I chose not to shoot any. To be effective, a harvesting program must be flexible.

Thanks for this opportunity to express my opinion.

ID: 69

Since deer hunting is expensive in itself with all the necessary gear that's needed to equip oneself, not to mention gasoline for all those pre-season scouting trips. I think it would be decent for GF&P to develop a program that would allow the harvesting of antlerless game at a reduced tag price and then provide a processing of this donated meat to the public at no cost to the hunter.

An early season should be created for doe hunting. This would make it easier to get out without dealing with cooler weather and deep snow.

ID: 76

I hunt Mellette County, and mostly Walk-In Areas. I have hunted this area for 18 years and although there are many white-tails, the majority is mule deer. The proportion of white-tail to mule deer is quite less. The number of white-tail licenses distributed to the kill ratio has to be much less than that of mule deer.

If you are trying to reduce the herd, it would make more sense to me to convert the antlerless to "any-deer" rather than to continue as is within the species.

ID: 81

I purchased two deer tags while I was living in Gregory last year at the time. Then I had a job opportunity that brought me to Hurst, TX during the end of the summer. I tried to make an effort to get back up to South Dakota to hunt, but no such luck happened.

I enjoy the South Dakota deer hunt every year and I plan on buying tags again this year! The deer are plentiful where I lived! Thanks!

ID: 82

Sell at a reduced fee for non-resident antlerless tags.

ID: 85

I saw over 400 deer on private land that an East River landowner would not let me hunt. West River, only one would let me hunt.

ID: 88

My idea wouldn't be about increasing the number of deer harvested, but might get more South Dakotans to hunt. In the years I've been hunting, I'm seeing more and more game farms (lodges). These game farms are charging a huge fee to hunt on their land. This is becoming attractive to landowners through the state. Too many of these farms are bad! Only those with high incomes or corporate money can afford this, which is causing a decrease in state hunters that hunt. Even where I go hunting, the rancher is thinking about charging \$1,000 (which I can't afford) a gun because several ranchers in that area are charging that to out-of-state hunters! Game farms need to have a license similar to a liquor license. There is so many per county or city. Please look into this area. Thanks.

ID: 91

I would like to see the deer season expanded for the whole month of December.

ID: 92

Educate! Landowners and hunters about herd management and buck to doe ratios. Many hunters still do not like to shoot does even if there are way too many of them. They

feel they are hurting the herds, instead of improving them. I see it a lot in older hunters and landowners. Education is the key.

ID: 98

Hunters for the Hungry Program is a good idea. I would be willing anytime to donate my time and ammo to help someone in need. We have to take care of our neighbors. That's a South Dakota tradition.

ID: 99

There seemed to be a substantial drop in white-tail deer in Unit 321B. This was unexpected since every year for the past 7 or 8 years more deer seemed to be in that unit.

ID: 102

It's getting much harder to find places to hunt. I prefer wild game over beef and pork, healthier. Most Walk-In Areas are barren with little or no coverage for the deer.

ID: 103

I think the licenses should be cheaper – \$20, and antlerless licenses should be free to get more hunters to take antlerless deer (one free tag per license).

ID: 108

I think that the doe harvesting is a good idea for counties that need the depredation due to accidents, but I hunt in Lyman County, and the deer numbers still aren't what they were prior to the last few years (5 to 6) with the diseases. I strongly oppose taking them in those areas.

ID: 112

1. We hunted public land and found "NO TRESPASSING" signs on some of the public land.
2. We were driving on a public road and was stopped by a rancher who accused us of trying to trespass on his land, which was actually public land.
3. Most of the ranchers are only interested in paid hunters on their land and then complain about deer depredation in the tough winters.
4. South Dakota deer and pheasant hunting is becoming for those from other states willing to pay high fees to hunt.

ID: 122

I think you fellows ought to look at having an over-the-counter method to purchase antlerless deer tags year-round to reduce the numbers; and around cities and towns make the firearm either a bow or shotgun. I also think that the Hunters for the Hungry Program is a good idea, but that the cost of processing should be payment by GF&P, or you could tack on 50 cents or something on the Sportsman's license.

ID: 125

Offer buck tags to muzzleloader hunters.

ID: 128

Most walk-in land does not have a road, so you have to drag a deer 3 or 4 miles to get it out. So at 62 years old, forget it. No deer is worth it. I think the Game, Fish and Parks can do something better. That's why a lot of hunters aren't hunting these places.

ID: 129

I think that the deer licenses are expensive and that you people are turning hunting into a rich man's sport. I think all fees have gone up way too high. Don't forget we the hunters own the deer, not GF&P. Be fair; no special elk tags for Custer State Park for government aids; okay.

ID: 130

I'm fairly new to the area. Knowing where I am, "can I shoot here or not", is this forest land, private or what? Private land, but it isn't posted; hunt it or not.

ID: 140

I would like it if all unfilled antlerless archery tags converted to antlerless rifle tags the first week of January. I would shoot another doe then.

I really think the best thing that could be done would be to implement antler restrictions of at least 6-points total. It would increase the quality of antlered deer, especially mule deer. Also, I believe it would prompt more people to shoot does. The majority of people that shoot small bucks are not capable enough hunters to find and shoot large bucks anyway, they just as well shoot does.

ID: 147

Tripp County (360B south) – You sold a lot of tags and then changed them to antlerless after the season. Deer numbers declined dramatically due to some *Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD)* or blue tongue, and the survivors got wiped out during your new season. Now there are zero deer. This was a mistake.

Maybe, use your over-the-counter idea for antlerless deer only in units that are overpopulated after the summer die-off occurs. Sell them tags for about \$5 or less. Then raise the price of an any buck license to about \$50 to \$100 for the regular season to entice people to hold out for an antlerless deer. 90% of the people surveyed will tell you that hunt because they like the meat and 90% lie. Everyone wants to shoot that big buck.

More people will hunt antlerless if they can donate it to the hungry for free.

Have the sharp shooting pool of hunters take care of the population if it's such a problem (after the season).

Implement a trophy buck citation for 150 or bigger class bucks (Boone & Crockett). Make the wardens do their jobs and deal with the public and measure the antlers. You may have to raise the price of buck tags and reduce doe tag costs. Also, adjust tag number accordingly. Nebraska has this program and it works. Some communications with them is not going to hurt you.

Free tags to landowners (antlerless), they seem to have all the complaints.

Leave things the way they are and pay people's repair bills when they hit (with a car) your deer that eat my crops.

If implementing any of these ideas will cost too much, you could offset it by raising the cost of an out-of-state fishing license about 100%. The out-of-staters outnumber us 10 to 1 near Platte, SD. Heck, give a free antlerless tag to every out-of-state fishermen.

ID: 154

On the Belle Fourche River there is too many does. There are 15 does per buck.

ID: 159

I think what you are doing is good. Being able to get double tags, etc. Most important to me for it to be better are having larger seasons.

ID: 162

I hope that the GF&P and the ranchers out west get their dispute settled. I was very unsatisfied when all the ranchers had their land locked out. Their just was to many hunters for the public hunting land. Thanks.

ID: 165

It really sucks when there is all kinds of government land surrounded by private landowners. They won't let you cross! It's not right!

I know of places that should not be posted, but are. I know places where forest service signs have been taken down. The landowners really ban together and plan together to keep people out! I have had landowners tell me I could not drive across their land to get to government, because they already had people up there. Paid hunters, hunting government land. Bullshit!

ID: 169

I like to see an "any-deer" and an "any antlerless" deer sold together.

ID: 172

Make more people fill out this survey!

ID: 177

Rich game preserves need to be taxed to support the community.

ID: 182

I really wouldn't and don't mind shooting antlerless deer, but the added cost of processing and hunting tags limits me. Also, it seems to be an increasing problem, at least out in the western part of the state, that landowners want outrageous fees to hunt on their land and a lot of the public ground is overcrowded or isn't that good for deer hunting. I think if landowners are going to charge to hunt, their property should be taxed at a higher rate; the same as a business that may make them re-evaluate their ideas. Too many rich out-of-state hunters willing to pay are keeping the residents from their state resources. It's becoming a rich man's sport; not only hunting, but fishing too.

ID: 185

I spend many of my archery and firearms hunting days in Bennett County. In the past, Bennett County would give out 10 antlerless archery deer tags. For the past few years, it has been closed for the antlerless archery season of the 10 tags; I would buy at least 2. I have spoken with Tom Beck, the conservation officer for this area about this, but there was noting that could be done for 2003. Hopefully for 2004 the area can re-opened, as there was several landowners that I bow hunted on their land that wanted me to shoot as

many does as I could. Some of the landowners had over a hundred head running their ground. If I would have had antlerless archery tags, I would have filled them all without a problem.

ID: 190

I would have like to hunt during the extended season, but the traveling distance made it impossible. If the extended season tags could be transferable to East River/West River or from county to county, I definitely would have taken advantage of them. I would support a plan like this even if there was a small fee and an application.

ID: 191

Shooting in town, so less are comfortable being around busy city roads and houses. Obviously, this would require skilled individuals, maybe teams like the city implemented awhile back. This meat could then be donated to those families mentioned in this survey.

ID: 193

Let bow hunters hunt them for free.

ID: 194

I hunted West River deer in Gregory County. I hunted 5 days and 4 in our group didn't harvest any deer. I was very disappointed and will not put in for that county again.

ID: 204

1. Increase fees for non-residents.
2. Acquire more Walk-In Area land.
3. The quality of bucks in the Black Hills is increasing. Continue the lottery system in the Black Hills!
4. Don't allow non-residents to buy leftover tags.

ID: 205

I believe the residents of the Black Hills and/or South Dakota should have an over-the-top preference on the hills. The reason behind this is we (Black Hills residents) know where and how to hunt the hills deer (safer) and better than out-of-state hunters. Road hunting makes me disrespect the hunters who educate the deer population, and have no respect of the true hunt; stalking, tracking and the kill of a deer. Road hunters hoot illegally from roads and vehicles. We need more game wardens to protect, not to protect the deer, but me as a hunter and resident. Thank you.

ID: 209

I think if you have permission to hunt on private ground, you should be automatically eligible for a license. I don't feel that it is right for some out-of-stater to get a license and doesn't have place to hunt, instead of someone local that has a place and can't get a license.

ID: 212

Do not make the tags so expensive. No one wants pay that much money just to shoot a doe.

ID: 218

Have a rule on the size of bucks that are taken, I feel should be a 5x5 or better. Because you just do not see the big bucks anymore because they did not have a chance to grow up.

ID: 219

Don't let the ranchers sell their own tags. The Game, Fish and Parks are doing a good job. Thanks to Cooper.

ID: 228

I think you should really not let buck-only hunters go out a week ahead of time.

ID: 230

Deer numbers were way down in the area I hunt. That is the reason I did not harvest a doe. Landowners were not happy about the extended season since many deer died-off before the season.

ID: 260

This was my first deer hunting trip and I really enjoyed it.

ID: 262

Give them a free tag with any other license they buy.

ID: 269

Yankton County East River Season:

I own 14 acres of farm ground 3 miles west of Yankton, SD along Highway 314. There are lots of deer. Spring of 2002, I counted 63 deer after sunset on my alfalfa field, but rich landowners to the west side of my place leave 40 acres of corn each fall not harvested, and spends the entire season in his pickup making sure no deer leave his food plot and wander onto other property. After the season is over and the crop is gone, then they all come back to my property and eat my hay bales. If they leave crops not harvested for the season, then it should be open for all to hunt. I feed them all year, except he keeps them in his corn that isn't harvested during the season. I didn't even put in for an East River permit.

I own one-half section of land in Jones County, West River. This is in the extreme edge of the county, touching Jackson and Haakon Counties. All the deer are located in draws away from this area, yet the population for the county is large, but not my area. Again, during the season most deer leave high prairie areas and congregate in larger draws during the rut and the season. Winter will find them back at hay bales when the weather gets rough. We need a way to get these deer when they are some place else during the rut season. I love to hunt and we use all the meat we shoot. Too many persons get 5 or more deer with various seasons and are not interested in the meat.

ID: 270

To increase the number of antlerless deer harvested, we should increase and promote more youth hunting.

We spent most of our deer hunting time trying to assist a 13 year old girl to get a shot at a deer. She was able to do so, and did get a nice doe the next to the last day of the January 1 – 11 season. She was one proud young lady!

Your strategies seem to be on the right track. Keep up the good work!

ID: 271

I hunted Ziebach County West River and had a white-tail any-deer license. All the white-tail had died on the ranch we hunt on. However, a very large amount of mule deer were seen. I believe if you have a large concentration of does in a county, you should open that county to doe hunting a week before the regular season when the weather is nice. As the weather in January is not conducive to harvesting many deer because most people aren't going to fight the elements to shoot a doe.

ID: 275

I think someone should check and see what there is to hunt. I mean check how many does there are. Their survey should not be made from a pickup, set out and look.

ID: 276

Put out more information on where to take a deer to have it processed and cost (if any).

ID: 279

Gentlemen,

You asked for some ideas about the harvesting of deer. I would like to see more applications per county; letting landowners have the buck license and the rest antlerless. Also, offer out-of-state hunters a license that has been born in South Dakota. Antlerless and buck without making the license prohibited by price. We need to treat the taxpayers and their children of South Dakota more fairly. We landowners feed the wildlife and have no say who can hunt them, why not our children? Without hunting and fishing why would people live in South Dakota? There's nothing else, and the small towns are drying up because there are no jobs. Thanks.

ID: 283

South Dakota hunting and fishing is great. Keep up the good work. Many thanks to the people of the SD GF&P.

ID: 285

I would like to be able to purchase a Black Hills deer tag each season. Obviously, my success in the computer drawings has been limited, but I do enjoy the hunting, and one my age never knows how many (hunts) he has left.

ID: 287

I saw very few deer in areas that appeared to be excellent habitat. Light snows during the season revealed very little deer activity. Seen as many coyote tracks as deer spoor. Area I hunted was north of the Cheyenne River in western Fall River County.

Walk-In Areas should have motorized retrieval of downed big game. Unarmed or unloaded and cased weapons while retrieving.

ID: 289

I fully realize there are areas where there are too many deer and there needs to be an increase in the harvest. In the area I live we do not have an abundant amount. We need to save our does for seed stock. It is hard on our area when you double up on the does and also extend the season. However, I realize in areas it must be done. There is no easy answer, you must do what's best for the state and we'll continue trying to protect our few does.

ID: 291

Issue more licenses for the given area. Several years my request for a license has been rejected.

ID: 293

Limit young people to antlerless deer up to the age of 17 or 18. This would be a nice way for them to get started and also thin out deer.

ID: 297

Open the Walk-In Areas for the antlerless season in the West River area. Ranchers will not let people on the land or they want a fee.

ID: 298

I could only hunt the first 4 days of the season because I had to have cancer surgery. I enjoyed the days I did have.

ID: 299

I don't support landowner transfer tags. I understand that it would probably be good for relations, but their would be the ones that would take advantage of it for pay hunting, like _____ and _____.

I support road hunting for birds. To me it's a tradition that shouldn't die.

I like the opportunity for leased land for hunting, but by making it Walk-In Area only restricts older and handicap hunters.

I also believe conservation officers should have access to private land. It would tie the conservation officers' hands if not allowed access and could create more illegal hunting by landowners allowing pay hunting.

If landowners were more liberal towards duck hunting and would allow hunters to puddle jump ducks without having to contact all the landowners, you would see an increase in waterfowl hunting that would create a better control on waterfowl numbers.

The trespass law has made it harder for the old traditional early morning and late evening hunts.

ID: 301

Several dead white-tails bucks (6) were found – blue tongue? Basically, on 1,500 acres of private land.

The antlerless harvest in Gregory County was "very" necessary. I saw many yearling does that had fawns (2) that were possibly as big as the doe. Possibly the doe was bred the first year, possibly the yearling in the fall.

For the "buck" hunters, possibly a 2-point restriction should be put on.

Thanks for the opportunity.

ID: 302

When there are leftover deer tags or an antlerless deer season, and people have no access to the Internet, you need to publicize a list of counties where available and how to apply in the newspaper.

ID: 305

In 2003, I applied for six licenses and got one West River. I've hunted deer in the Black Hills for 44 years, but I didn't get a license this year. They should not limit the number of buck tags in the Black Hills.

P.S. – I have applied for Black Hills elk for 16 years and have not gotten a license. Not to happy.

ID: 306

I hunted Walk-In Area land in Perkins County and did not see a single mule deer buck, and only five does, which were too far in to drag out. Some Walk-In Areas are too large with limited road access for game retrieval, especially does.

ID: 312

I have two children involved in high school sports and their activities took precedence over my deer hunting time this year.

ID: 317

Having two – 1,000 tree belts that are six years old, the bucks rubbing their horns have destroyed (killed) 10 to 15% of the young trees. No mercy was shown when they started or moved into the evergreen spruce tree rows. Won't mention the damage to the alfalfa bales. Deer populations are overwhelming when it's the mid-afternoon within 15 yards driving down to the barnyard or they're grazing within 30 yards from the trees. Deer repellent (lion scent) or repetitive attempts to discourage them are fruitless.

Should this calving season provide 5 to 10% abortions as last year did from gripto-lepto virus transmitted by wildlife, according to DNA hair testing of affected cows by our veterinary; the deer will be done irregardless of methods necessary to eliminate this threat. We have implemented an additional vaccination program (added operating expenditure) to our beef herds to alleviate this wildlife virus. Fairness to deer, I'll give them a one-year test period in hopes the vaccine works. To date, we've had 2 1/2% abortion . . . not looking good for deer life expectancy.

I lost count on the number of deer hunters removed from our ranch. Somewhere around 13 bucks and 10 does . . . more extinguishing of deer is recommended. The food bank; at no hunter/landowner expense, we could keep freezers full . . . I donated three-fourths of a buck of my own because I don't like deer meat, but hate their damage worse. I have no problem with them eating in my hay fields, but when affecting my trees and cow herd; then no mercy exists.

ID: 319

The January season was terrible. All (most) of the bucks on our property had already dropped their racks. Therefore, we refused to shoot a "doe". We passed up many nice bucks during the regular season to let them mature another year. How many of your "does" were next year's trophy for some lucky hunter? Poor choice!

ID: 320

I hope the Game, Fish and Parks and the hunters can improve relations with landowners so that future generations (including my grandson) will be able to enjoy hunting in South Dakota. Also, we need to keep the cost of licenses down so everyone can hunt, not just the rich.

ID: 321

I do not like the season from January 1 – 11 because bucks may have lost their antlers and therefore, would eliminate them also.

ID: 324

You're doing a great job. Sorry you have to put up with all the bullshit you're getting out west.

ID: 325

Abundance of deer is no reason why people get money back so many times. Put in for single tag and it will be a fairly reasonable chance you will receive your money back. Put in for double tags and there seems to be no problem in getting your license. Price is getting out of hand. Different amounts for different types of deer are something that needs to be considered. Thank you.

ID: 326

There is a large ranch now in Stanley and Jones Counties that are running the deer back onto their land during the deer season. They don't do it before or after the season. As a result, the surrounding ranches have to try and take care of all the extra tags issued in this area. So next time you issue extra tags for this area, keep this in mind.

ID: 331

I feel what the GF&P has done is great. I feel there are way too many deer around. My answers indicate that, as I hunt for only a buck each year. This is because where I hunt on private land in Stanley County we have always hunted for bucks, as the landowner really doesn't want us to shoot a doe. It's a buck or go home without a deer. I have hunted this way since 1966, bucks only. We did hunt double tag one year when there was a lot of deer. Anyway, I would fill my tag with a doe if the landowner would allow it. I feel you are on the right track to increase the number of does shot each year. Thank you. A South Dakota deer hunter.

ID: 333

You should be turned down for an archery elk tag when you already got one before, when you have archery number.

ID: 335

Too many hunters concentrated on private land in good hunting areas. Ranchers starting to charge more hunters, especially out-of-state hunters that hunt on their land, reducing deer harvest.

ID: 339

We never had snow cover and therefore, it made it very hard to fill our licenses.

ID: 344

I think donating deer meat to needy people is a good idea, but processing cost have become a problem also. Lowering the cost of antlerless tags may help the Hunters for the Hungry Program.

ID: 346

Thank you for giving me the chance to hunt.

ID: 348

I feel during additional seasons, we should be able to hunt state and government lands.

ID: 354

Have the antlerless season start on the same day as buck season. Don't wait until all the deer are in the city limits of our town to be safe from hunters, and I'm sure other towns experience this.

ID: 355

I love deer hunting East River and West River, but when I go West River it is a big hassle. If we could hunt as a team; no paying for big bucks. I like the Hunters for the Hungry Program and no processing fee. Processing fees are too high to kill 3 to 5 deer in a year. If people charge to hunt on their land or on land they lease for hunting big bucks, they should have to let a smaller percentage of hunters in for free 50% - 30% - 20% - 10%, if they wish to run a guide service or a safari in the State of South Dakota. Hunt for free at the same time of the season for doe or small bucks 3-point or less.

ID: 358

The dispute you have going with some of the West River ranchers, is to say the least, the worst public relations stunt anybody could have dreamed up. It's their land and their way of making a living. They should have something to say about it. After all, how smart do you have to be to figure out if you can't hunt deer on their land, you can't increase the number of deer harvested? Antlerless or otherwise! If I owned land West River, mine would be closed to hunting too.

ID: 359

As a landowner in Mellette County, I feel that the Game, Fish and Parks needs to do a lot more to curb trespassing on lands near or adjacent to public land. I pay the taxes on my land, and I should have the first opportunity to hunt that land, not members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe or people from California.

ID: 364

I have been hunting public land 100% for about 10 years now, and I have shot very quality bucks. Just takes a little more time. I've shot a few does, but in my opinion, too many does are shot on public land. They do need to be harvested on private land, but should be restricted on public. I really enjoy deer hunting and have shot big bucks within 8 miles of Pierre, SD. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

ID: 367

I had to go to my husband to get a comment on this. He is an ex-hunting guide and has hunted deer for close to 50 years. He was glad to see the season set up as it was in 2003 to help thin out some of the antlerless deer. He also mentioned how the archery season was set up a number of years ago, a double tag that year and the doe tag had to be filled before the buck tag was filled.

ID: 369

I had applied for an “any buck” tag for Fall River County, but I was unsuccessful. I then applied for an any whit-tail/antlerless white-tail tag in the leftover draw. Even though the 2-tag license was more expensive, and I didn't need two deer in my freezer, I got the license. It allowed me the opportunity to hunt with a group of hunters that I enjoyed to hunt with. Even though the area I was able to hunt in was not the best for white-tail, I still had a great time. I applaud the Game, Fish and Parks efforts and different strategies to help with your game management goals.

ID: 371

I am very much opposed to the additional season length for antlerless deer. It really stirs up the deer and messes up the hunting for archery and muzzleloader seasons.

I also feel that in times additional antlerless harvest is necessary that these tags should be free with the regular deer tags as a bonus tag.

ID: 373

I'm not a big deer hunter. I do not care if I shoot a deer. If a nice buck comes by, I'll shoot it, if not, no big deal.

ID: 374

1. I was not aware that there is a Hunters for the Hungry Program. I would participate and pay for processing.
2. I feel that special buck tag should convert to antlerless tags after the regular season, i.e., for the extra week in December and the time in January.
3. I did not fill my West River antlerless tag because our group felt, in general, that the total deer numbers were down compared to recent years; at least on the ranch where we hunt.
4. I am totally opposed to Special Buck tags that can be transferred to non-resident hunters.
5. Of the five strategies on Page 1, I was only aware of two of them. I suspect more deer would be harvested if all of these strategies were better publicized.

ID: 376

My opposition to extended deer seasons stems from the fact that I also enjoy waterfowling and other small game hunting. I feel slightly uncomfortable in camouflage with my dog in a swamp when I know the deer season is still open. I think that if a hunter wants to harvest a deer, we already have more than enough open seasons without adding days to each.

I think an effective way to increase doe harvest would be to require doe before buck on double tags. I know this was tried in the past and it certainly motivated me. The down side of course, is passing that buck on opening morning. There may also be other logistical problems of which I am not aware. I almost hesitate to say it, but I think that for many hunters an increased doe harvest has to be either cheap or easy or both.

ID: 378

1. All non-rifle (archery, etc) should be double tags.
2. Extend or change January 1 – 11 season to include Christmas. As many hunters return to their home area for the holidays and might take another deer.

ID: 379

We need more hunting ground with deer on them. All the deer I seen were east of Highway 65 where the people wouldn't let us hunt.

ID: 380

Due to work constraints, I was only able to hunt 3 days of the muzzleloading in January 2004. This is probably why I never saw a live deer (found 7 (lost) carcasses). All my hunting was on public land. My hunting was slow, I walked many a mile. I didn't harvest this year, but wait until next year's season. Thanks for my input.

P.S. – How about an early antlered/antlerless muzzleloading season. An antlerless deer after the rifle season is not easy when 400 to 500 scoped rifle shooters get done.

ID: 381

A special doe handgun hunt might sell some licenses. Maybe a safety certification, make them pay for it!

ID: 383

I am in agreement with GF&P's increase in the antlerless deer tags and the extended weeks of the season for 2003. I believe this trend should continue whenever there is a need to adequately control the deer population. I just couldn't find the time I would have liked for hunting this year.

ID: 390

I loved hunting on the large Walk-In Area in Harding County. I saw plenty of deer and I love the chance to hunt mule deer.

ID: 393

We did go one day for extended doe, but were unsuccessful. Weather turned real cold after January 1st and we decided we had some meat from last year to finish and didn't need more. Also, the does are carrying young embryos already. We didn't like the idea of that or the idea of one being a buck for the future. I personally don't feel the numbers needed to be thinned on my land. There were not as many deer as we expected to see this year. Only one shootable buck, and a 12-year-old kid did (neighbor's kid) harvest it. We'll let the little ones grow and leave the does alone. It was a 50/50 deal. If one would have been easy we'd have taken it, but passed for the above reasons.

ID: 394

I feel that it would be beneficial to have any antlerless seasons begin immediately after the regular season. The reason being, is that landowners only have to deal with hunters in one month. It would also give the landowner a better idea of how many deer he may have to deal with for the remainder of the winter. Thank you for sending me this survey!

ID: 401

CRP – If the farmer or rancher is paid rent by the state, should some, if not all, hunting rights be owned by the state. I guess what I'm getting at is this, open some of the CRP to

Walk-In Areas. As a rancher, I see CRP as competition for ground that others and I help support through our taxes. I guess I would like to see them “CRP landowners” at least have to make a choice.

ID: 404

I would like to see an any-deer muzzleloading season in the Black Hills and West River areas. I would also like to see more any-deer licenses in the West River prairie seasons.

ID: 411

You are doing a good job.

ID: 415

We spent \$90 on tags this year. I would like to see reduced tags or buy two; get one antlerless tag free. If the doe population is such a problem, why not a free tag? We would have hunted more, but we had already spent enough on tags.

ID: 420

Start the antlerless archery season two or three weeks “before” any other hunting season starts.

I was able to hunt in the Fall River Nature Conservatory and although the terrain was some of the best habitat I’ve ever hunted, very few deer were seen and very few tracks with fairly fresh snow. We did see three different sets of cougar tracks. Also, we came across four sets of cougar tracks in the Black Hills Minnesota Ridge area.

I would like to see a trophy buck-only tag available for the Black Hills. Some areas we hunted held many more elk than deer.

We hunt on foot and I was astonished at the motorcycle and ATV trails criss-crossing huge tracts of forest and ATV trails running a majority of ridge tops throughout the hills. I feel the ethics of hunting are being compromised for the sake of the “mechanized hunter”.

ID: 426

Ensure access to hunt.

If you really want sportsmen to do the antlerless tags, then reward them with reduced fees. I don’t know many hunters who will pay the same money to kill a doe or a trophy buck. I on the other hand, I know of several that for only a small fee would love the chance to hunt an antlerless deer.

I would also note that landowners that do not allow outside non-paying hunters on their property should not receive any type of benefit from GF&P, such as a deer depredation program. Most hunters, and all good hunters, follow landowner rules. So why let a landowner force hunters into public areas then later complain to Game, Fish and Parks about being overrun by deer.

ID: 430

I liked the extra week in January, as it gave me time to make room in the freezer for extra deer. Thank you.

ID: 438

My hunting is mostly for enjoyment of family and friends. Meat is not a main issue. Prefer to shoot a buck, but have shot antlerless in the past, especially if crippled or hurt.

I'm not a big promoter of fee hunting for big game or birds. Do not like the idea of transferable licenses so someone can make money.

ID: 440

In my years of hunting in South Dakota, my only problem is seeing areas that have become overrun with people using 4-wheelers and 3-wheelers. Hunters who enjoy sitting in stands or stalking are becoming a "dying breed". The 3-wheelers and 4-wheelers have made roads and tracks where only a few years ago there weren't any. This I feel gives them an unfair advantage and goes far beyond fair chase.

If a hunter is:

1. Too lazy to walk, and
2. Too impatient to sit.

Then maybe they should take up golf.

Thank you for the survey and I hope to hear back on your results. Thank you again.

ID: 444

I normally hunt deer in Harding County, but unfortunately we were not allowed to hunt this year because of the aerial coyote hunting dispute and dissatisfaction with local conservation officers. Deer hunting in Harding County is one of the highlights of the year for my son and myself. I'm just very bothered whenever politics has to interfere with a person's ability to enjoy the outdoors. I've hunted there 4 times in the last 7 years, and even though I've never harvested a deer, it's one of the most enjoyable weekends of my year. I truly hope this dispute won't endanger our ability to experience this unique opportunity again next year.

Also, I would gladly harvest an antlerless deer to donate to the Hunters for the Hungry Program if I didn't have to pay the processing charge. Thank you!

ID: 446

I would like to hunt "any-deer" at muzzleloader season.

ID: 447

I couldn't complain about the numbers of deer this year. Our hunting was poor because my husband spent the whole season, and then some, fighting a staph infection. I had several good hunts, and chances to shoot, but I didn't have anyone to help me take care of it.

We each had 3 tags; applied for doe tags from the leftovers. We would have given some to the local food pantry, as they gladly pay for processing.

ID: 448

- I pay federal taxes.
- Federal taxes pay for landowners to keep land out of production (CRP).
- Landowners have used CRP ground for private paid hunting.
- Access is the number one issue with hunting; in my opinion, i.e., no access – no hunting, unless you own land or hunt on public ground, which is not good usually.

- CRP ground needs to be opened up; at least partially, to public hunting access and off limits to non-residents.

ID: 451

There is a definite need to decrease the population of antlerless deer. My family and I own approximately 5,000 acres of land. I strongly support any efforts to reduce the number of deer. Reduced rates for (antlerless licenses only) non-landowners are a good idea. I do think landowners should get an even more reduced rate. I think the purchasing of licenses should remain with GF&P and not other agencies throughout the state. Youth hunting needs to be encouraged, maybe a reduced rate for them. I also strongly support the out-of-state licenses costing more than state residents do.

Although I support reducing the population of antlerless deer, we still need to fine the people who take deer illegally or hunt on private land without permission.

ID: 452

My wife and I apply yearly for West River any-deer tags for Tripp County. I have a brother that lives in Witten, SD, and it is a family hunting trip. In the last two seasons, my wife and I have taken two mature bucks and two antlerless mature deer.

ID: 459

I have taught Hunter Safety to the youth for over 20 years. I think that as an instructor we should have a single deer license, whether it is East River or West River. I don't want them free, but I do want the option for a license.

ID: 461

Buy as much land as possible for public hunting. Without it, only the rich will enjoy our state's hunting privileges.

ID: 463

I live in the Black Hills. I would like to be able to hunt there. I don't like driving 100 miles to hunt public land with way too many hunters and too few deer. I am very selective about what I shoot. I feel I should be able to receive a tag in the hills and harvest a deer if I want to. Finding and harvesting a trophy is very exciting. Shooting a small buck is about the same as shooting an antlerless deer. Could there be a "trophy-only tag", maybe 5-points or better for people that aren't real interested in taking a smaller buck?

I take the time to remove the teeth from my kills, and request the age information is sent to me, but I don't receive it. I am also interested in the age of the animals I harvest. Why isn't this information made available to the hunter. You could post it on your web site or something, if it inconvenient to mail.

ID: I did not hunt antlerless deer this season because the landowner doesn't allow the shooting of any does on this property. Public hunting land in Haakon County is hard to find, so I didn't go elsewhere.

ID: 471

Many years ago a person could obtain Black Hills licenses from retail stores, like K-Mart, Wal-Mart, etc. without sending anything in. Maybe this could happen again for antlerless or buck until we get the deer population under control. There are so many car/deer accidents in the Black Hills area that are causing millions of dollars in damage; and many people are injured trying to avoid deer.

ID: 475

Make the East River deer season one week, instead of two weeks. All the bucks get shot in two weeks. Nobody has to shoot a doe because they are filled with small bucks. The bucks don't get a chance to get big because of the two weeks of hunting pressure. I feel people would shoot more does if the regular season were only one week, then put the 2nd week for does only.

ID: 476

I really like to hunt in the Walk-In Areas. I think it gives the hunter a lot more areas to hunt and not feel you have to pay-to-hunt that farmer's land, plus it takes some of the hunting pressure off from the public shooting areas. So, I hope that you can keep adding more Walk-In Areas each year.

ID: 481

I believe that GF&P needs to issue tags directly to landowners, but put a limit on the amount they are allowed to charge for the permits. I also believe that in order to maintain a healthy deer population, you need to feed and manage herd populations. GF&P doesn't feed the majority of the deer in South Dakota, private landowners do. Food plots that are paid for by landowners are the future for hunting in South Dakota. I also believe that preserves and private land hunting can co-exist in South Dakota, if you allow it and don't over legislate it.

ID: 484

Some ranchers will not let anyone hunt on their land because they are mad at Game, Fish and Parks, and the ranchers that will allow you to hunt want money to hunt on their land.

The ranchers that will let you (people) hunt without paying, say they will let the hunters hunt on their land only when Game, Fish and Parks comply with their requests.

As a hunter it is hard to find good hunting on public land because there are too many hunters in one small area.

ID: 485

There are too many acres of land tied up in fee hunting. The deer herds are not managed properly on those areas. When you only get paid for "bucks" there are no does taken to thin or balance the herd. We have a large number of deer tags issued, but hunting is limited because of the fee hunting. Unless you have money or own land, you have a hard time finding a place to hunt. We need a way to balance this out some way.

ID: 489

In regards to the road hunting issue, it seems the preserves are the one's having the biggest issue with this. I respect that they are the biggest contributors of replenishing the birds. I would propose a state stamp, for example, of \$5, and this money could go to the preserves if this would help resolve the issue of road hunting.

The antlerless tags I thought was an excellent idea, but if we know that there is a certain number of deer that need to be harvested, why not open deer season for antlerless from October 1st through January 11th, and let people go at there convenience. I know that the archery hunters would complain, but I also bow hunt and I say this wouldn't effect the

bow-hunting season. Managing the deer population in South Dakota should be every sportsman's concern. Thank you.

ID: 492

My main problem is processing deer. My family and I have cut up many this year and get tired of it, that's why we don't fill all the tags. Processing fees are outrageous for what one gets back.

I don't know if you can regulate state prices, but doubt it. Is there a way you could start processing classes to teach how to quickly and easily to take care of your animals? I don't know when to stop and spend hours on a deer getting every bit of meat. Thank you.

P.S. – One survey a year is enough, not 5 to 10, which is ridiculous.

ID: 497

I hunt in Fall River County. I feel there were way too many deer tags issued. I don't feel that the threat of CWD is the reason for the herd elimination. It's just lucky for us that some hunters didn't choose to fill all the antlerless tags. In fact, the private land I hunt was shut of to doe hunting because of too few deer. We split our deer with mountain lions, so we don't need 2,000 tags for hunters. Our party saw 3 different fresh lion kills and numerous sets of tracks, especially the last snowy weekend!

ID: 501

I hunt only for bucks that are a set size that I'm happy with. I do however harvest does if the landowner wants me to or at the end of seasons.

The extended season following regular rifle is a good thing, but my other seasons extending later have too much of a risk of harvesting bucks shed from early stress from weather chances.

What is needed to teach the weekend hunters to pass up bucks that the antlers wouldn't be kept anyway? These people pass these small deer the first few days and then shoot them later in the season.

Visit any meat locker and there is a huge pile of yearling to 1 1/2-year-old horns that are not even kept by the hunters. This is a tragedy.

ID: 503

I have enjoyed hunting and the outdoors for many years, and still hold a deep respect for wildlife and the land, which they inhabit. If there is something that I would like to see changed, it would be the harvest of wildlife for personal profit. Since this has come along, I have seen changes, which I can't say I think have been bad for the common sportsman/outdoorsman. I don't blame the landowners for selling wildlife harvest on their own property, but they have also taken land, which was public land or Walk-In Area land, and tied it up so the people who cannot afford to pay for hunting privileges, and the chance to harvest a trophy animal now have even less opportunity to do so. I feel that if the average income or common hunter can once again have the opportunity to hunt and have a chance for a "trophy animal", the license sales will increase and the buck to doe ratio can be balanced once again.

ID: 513

I would like to see the season run until the end of the month of November. I believe there are sportsmen and hunters that would also like to see a new point restriction on antlers. The Black Hills is becoming an example of what selection can produce. The overall idea seems to be quantity rather than quality on bucks.

ID: 517

I would like to see more antlerless archery tags available. I could harvest several antlerless deer with a bow if there were more tags available.

ID: 521

I think the January doe season is bad. Although not many bucks shed their horns, some do. You stand a chance of killing a buck that shed his antlers. I saw more than one buck that shed before the doe season was over this year. Not good!

ID: 524

Like I said before, reduce the license fee and don't give anymore than two tags per person, and give the people who really need the meat a chance. This also includes archery tags, which would get more deer harvested each year; guaranteed!

I am also very disappointed with the predator control down here (coyotes)! I have asked nicely two times for the airplane, and just like before I always have to have a calve ate alive before anybody gets their damn attention, which is bullshit.

On March 15, 2004, at 5:30 a.m., I lost a calf to coyotes. I called _____, and just like before I am wasting my breath talking to him! I had a neighbor call him to trap beaver out of a dam and he told him that he was too busy to do it! I think he should be replaced by someone that gives a damn!

ID: 526

The additional antlerless season January 1 – 11 made harvesting muzzleloader more difficult due to the increased hunting pressure. I also felt the extended rifle season in November greatly diminished my chances of harvesting an archery deer due to the increase in hunting pressure. I don't have anything against the harvesting of antlerless deer, but I feel it would be fairer to other hunters to move the additional antlerless season to after the archery and muzzleloader seasons have closed.

As far as the increase in harvesting antlerless deer, I think making tag sales over-the-counter for the areas that have too many deer would be good. Also, a lower out-of-state price for antlerless deer tags in the overpopulated areas. I also think making an antlerless season in February after all other seasons have closed would give hunters a better chance of being able to obtain a tag; for the reason they would not be hunting another season, for example, muzzleloader or archery.

ID: 531

I really like the idea of an increased number of licenses and a reduced price on an antlerless tags, if farmers or ranchers want deer shot to notify SD GF&P to have depredation on their land. It would be nice if the season were two weeks for both buck and antlerless deer, then have the extended antlerless season. I don't think that all people have enough time, especially West River to harvest all deer with a weekend or two, and some ranchers will let you hunt, but most already have hunters the first week.

We hunt Harding County and we saw 100 to 150 deer S – M, 75 – 80% antlerless deer and there are many ranchers that want them shot off.

ID: 533

I feel the extended January season was a bad idea because some friends of mine shot deer during the extended season that they thought were does, but actually were old bucks that had already shed their antlers.

I am a bow hunter and like to see as many bucks stay alive as possible for the next season.

I love the idea in Question No. 9, about paying for the processing in the Hunters for the Hungry Program. Everyone I talked to said it was a good idea and they would shoot additional does.

P.S. – If you want to harvest more bucks, give the muzzleloader a chance.

ID: 534

It would be nice to draw a Black Hills deer tag every year. This has been a family tradition that I would like to pass onto my children.

I agree totally with the importance of 2-point or better buck requirements, but I think it would be a great idea to go back to buying Black Hills deer tags over-the-counter for South Dakota residents.

ID: 537

1. You need to find a way to connect hunters with landowners that want deer harvested.
2. There are several Walk-In Areas that hunters don't have access to, or the size of the land doesn't allow a hunter to drag a deer out. Maximum 2 miles from an access point.
3. Double the price of a tag and provide half to the farmer who's land the hunter hunts or shoots deer on.

ID: 538

Need lots of doe tags to be given out. There is an abundance of does around our part of the state. I counted 215 does the first day of the season. That's a lot, and it is hard to grow big buck with that many deer in the area.

ID: 539

I would like to see more single doe tags as opposed to double tags. I feel people would buy additional tags one at a time more often than two at a time would.

ID: 541

I strongly feel that landowners should not be limited on the number of doe tags that they wish to have. I feel that landowners should have first chance at leftover doe tags before city people.

ID: 542

I enjoyed my hunting this year, even if it was only one day, as that is all I had time for. My brother-in-law and nephew took five deer and the two I took was more than enough for my freezer; any more would have been too much.

ID: 543

I liked having the extra week of hunting immediately following the regular rifle season. It's hard getting back from college. The extra two weeks of antlerless deer season are great. Thank you!

ID: 553

I think the GF&P should sell a double tag that consists of an "any-deer" tag and "any antlerless" deer tag during the regular season. I think that if this were offered a lot, more antlerless deer would be taken because in the process of hunting for a buck, a nice doe is always seen and could be harvested.

This way you could complete your hunt in a certain period of time, instead of planning another hunt a month down the road. Thanks.

ID: 554

Close the road going down to the Joe-Day Bay boat dock. You can't dock a boat down there, and there is no reason for the road to be open.

ID: 560

I love to hunt!

ID: 566

The extra seasons were poorly scheduled and really affected the archery season. I think there was a decrease in harvesting of deer when hunters knew they had an extra 10 days (passed up more deer). All in all, it was a good effort though. Also, later season could cause bucks that lost their rack to be harvested.

ID: 568

I think that there should be a separate tag for Black Hills archery deer. I want to archery hunt both the Black Hills and the prairie. Right now, I won't shoot a deer on the prairie because I am saving my tag for the Black Hills, and visa versa. If I had two separate tags, then I would be willing to harvest an antlerless deer with one of the, and harvest a buck with the other one. You guys have separate tags and seasons for East River, West River and Black Hills rifle seasons. Why not archery?

ID: 575

Let younger bucks grow big to get better genetics in our area. Stop road hunting by city people that do not even have permission to hunt.

ID: 577

I was very happy with the 2003 deer season. I seen a lot of deer and I waited for the perfect size. It didn't matter if it was a buck or doe. I go hunting because I love the outdoors and it is something I can do with my grandpa, dad and brother. It also gives me something to talk about when you are in a class full of guys.

ID: 589

To Whom It May Concern:

Please take my name and erase it from your memory. I have received fourteen various surveys, 3 pheasant surveys and now this. That rounds out to be about \$5 in postage.

So lets do this next season (meaning this fall), send me a \$5 discount coupon on the licensing of my choosing and keep all the surveys.

This will be my last survey I will ever fill out. If you want the information so bad, why don't you find me in the field Larry or how about this, put together more useless jobs for lazy people. How about sending people into the field to do some research and find out something I didn't know already, then send it out so I can read it?

Just one more thing, keep the five bucks. Maybe I am stupid or just tired of watching you guys *&@# everything up.

I used to hunt the bluffs from Okobojo to Antelope Creek, as well as decoy on Lake Oahe, as well as below. Not many people still decoy above, and you know why, because you guys make every single good *&@# spot a take-line refuge, except Corps Bay, but I fear soon you will take that too.

I would like to know how the Tundra is coming? Last I heard it was overpopulated and the fields are being devastated by geese every year; I might be wrong, but shouldn't we be allowed to kill them, as they have hundreds of thousands of miles of shoreline to rest, *&@# the refuges. Let them sit in the *&@# middle.

I know this is a deer survey, I just got on a rant, but you know where I had the best hunting. Two places on the refuge and in the *&@# ditch; isn't that a shame.

ID: 594

The area I hunted had few white-tail deer and many mule deer. It would have been easier to harvest a doe after the regular season if the license had converted to any antlerless deer.

ID: 602

We saw very few deer in our area (321B), yet only double tags were available. I think there are too many licenses being issued.

ID: 606

We shall never change the migration of wildlife, their habitat, food and water. It's sad to hear of so many collisions with deer; it's costly. What is the answer? Work on it, possibly technology on auto.

ID: 611

I think the government should not let the big-city rich people come out and buy land just for the purpose of hunting. These people charge hunters and as a result, not as many people hunt. I know of a lot of private landowners that love to have people come in and hunt for free.

ID: 618

I believe the Game, Fish and Parks should lower the youth age to 10 years old. Because a lot of kids I've been around about, the teen age would rather get a regular season so they can hunt bucks. These kids usually tag a small to medium buck.

ID: 621

It appeared in this particular area that there were very scarce, maybe because of the feed was scarce. Some areas not too far away, people said they were plentiful. Very few dead deer were reported. We do see more deer now than we did during the season.

ID: 636

Issue buck/doe tags and require doe to be harvested first and confirmed. If hunter does not want a doe, GF&P provides reasonable means for processing doe, to preclude waste.

ID: 647

Have a smaller fee in that area.

ID: 649

I didn't go back to shoot a doe because some of the deer on the ranch I was hunting were dying from fever. Issue tags to the landowners to give to whoever they want to, to control the doe numbers.

ID: 655

I would be very willing to purchase more deer licenses if more were available at reduced fees. Spoke with lots of landowners that were willing to let me hunt as long as I had antlerless tags to fill. Deer meat is a big part of our meat use and antlerless deer provide a much better tasting meat. Would be willing to donate meat if I could get more tags just for that purpose.

ID: 657

I love to hunt, but did not get the opportunity to do much this year. I was sick, but had family in town from another country and the weather did not cooperate, so I did not fill one tag. Hopefully next year, I can do more hunting.

ID: 658

Cut through the bullshit and have landowners not charge for hunting does. Walk-In Areas are a pain in the henny for me, as I can't walk very far. Harvesting antlerless deer from problem areas usually comes from the rancher charging enormous prices to hunt his land.

ID: 665

The Fish and Game Department leased the Poss Ranch, formally the Frees Ranch (and my old place). With the lease and about 50% of the land in western Jackson County belonging to the federal government, the hunting pressure was unreasonable. Without some kind of extra control, the hunting could be in trouble in western Jackson County.

ID: 668

Need more land to hunt on without paying. Need to be able to buy your license locally!

ID: 669

The farmers in the area were finding many dead deer while harvesting and pheasant hunting. Therefore, I would not shoot a doe.

ID: 670

In our area, the deer died off in large numbers in August and September of 2003. Many thin and sick!

ID: 676

Too much Walk-In Areas in the area I hunt. Restricts how many deer I can get to and makes it too hard to retrieve game, so I don't harvest them.

ID: 678

Make sure antlerless licenses run concurrent to regular seasons to be able to hunt with friends and family, if they have other types of licenses.

ID: 679

Thanks to GF&P for the opportunities they provide. Hunting is an experience that provides lasting memories for all involved. Keep up your great work.

ID: 682

I suggest implementing a voucher system or some sort of method for compensating ranchers (landowners, etc) for deer harvested from their land.

Not only do I enjoy deer hunting, but I've come to find the association with the rancher(s) and their family especially rewarding.

ID: 683

1. Doe permit fee could be reduced to \$15 and leave buck permits at \$30.
2. Also, Walk-In Areas that are grazed and hayed to no cover should not be allowed to be enrolled. Also, some Walk-In Areas are farmed and turned black in the fall with no cover and no food for the wildlife or birds. GF&P is wasting money on certain Walk-In Areas in our county.

Thank you.

ID: 689

I hunted for a buck during the regular season. I couldn't find any ranchers that though we should shoot a doe in the late season.

I don't know where you are seeing all of the deer that need to be harvested. I am extremely disappointed in the numbers of deer in Unit 27A. In my hunting areas, I think there are probably about 25% of the deer there was 10 years ago.

ID: 690

In Charles Mix County in regards to pheasant hunting, lets limit the hunting time until we regain the population. No comments on deer as I believe GF&P are doing a good job. I agree it's hard to do and to satisfy everyone.

ID: 694

I would like to see a restriction on antler size for buck harvest. I believe too many hunters harvest spike bucks.

ID: 699

Let landowners buy licenses to distribute to friends and family. More hunters need to ask permission. I had many driving around without stopping to ask, including driving across seeded winter wheat fields.

ID: 701

I hunt mainly in Fall River County, but the last two years I have not seen the numbers of deer as in previous years. The deer are there, but not in the numbers as before.

ID: 705

I feel they could be given to the youth at a reduce fee, and let them get a chance to become more interested in being a hunter and outdoors person.

ID: 706

I think it is very important to have the season extended if the weather is too warm for a safe harvest of a deer.

ID: 712

I like the early antlerless deer season that ran in conjunction with antelope season. Basically, two birds – one stone saved gas money.

ID: 715

I'm wondering how many free deer licenses you're going to give us landowners so we can sell them to anyone.

ID: 716

The increase in prices of licenses and ammunition will make me and my family think before going next year.

ID: 718

Question No. 17 – I will take a doe before shooting a small buck.

ID: 721

Youth Season:

The season should not be a split season and it could be an earlier season, i.e., maybe it would help to harvest does if it were a 4 week season in September and October. When the weather turns, it is hard to keep young kids interested in the hunting game.

Muzzleloader Season:

There was a lot of trouble finding places to hunt because of the hunting pressure. The landowners refused permission because there was not any deer causing any trouble. The other problem that was seen was that there always seemed to be deer on other landowners' land that would give permission, but it was the wrong county. We hunted public land for 12 days – no deer. Maybe it would help you and us if the tags were made into West River or East River tags.

P.S. – If things were different, my children and I could purchase between 12 to 18 deer tags with most of them being doe tags. I would like to see this type of evaluation done for muzzleloader season.

ID: 723

I am all for GF&P purchasing large tracks of land in and around the Black Hills to reduce development. There are houses everywhere in the woods now with most on winter range.

We need areas in each part of the state with 4-points or more to increase buck age and size, but you can still shoot does to keep herds under control.

Need to get a handle on 4-wheeler use during hunting seasons. I think it's fine to retrieve a downed animal with one, but too many people hunting off them.

ID: 726

For persons that harvest an antlerless deer in areas where the count is high, possibly offer a gift certificate at a retail store by entering their name in a drawing held at the end of the season. Draw 5 names or 3.

ID: 727

- A cheaper over-the-counter tag!
- Be able to donate extra deer and not have to pay processing!

ID: 728

I think the extended season is great for the archery hunter and for kids. I myself don't always have the time to go out. What would be wrong about extending the regular archery season until the first of the year (buck or doe), and then extend it in January for doe or antlerless.

ID: 732

- Trap the (antlerless) deer and put them in areas where there are not heavily populated.
- Let farmers or ranchers harvest antlerless with no charge or fee.
- Let our youth hunt antlerless deer at no charge.
- Another incentive would be to tag a few of the antlerless deer and let the hunter receive a reward, i.e., cash, free fishing, rifle, free camping, hunting trip, special knife edition, ATV's, etc.

ID: 734

The main reason there is an overpopulation of deer in my areas is because of the big money involved in hunting deer. In the last five years, guides and outfitters have leased thousands of acres of prime deer habitat land and charged up to \$500 to hunt a deer. Those people (mostly out-of-state) who pay that kind of money aren't about to shoot a doe or a smaller buck. Therefore, on those acres the population of deer is out of control.

In the past, my family and friends hunted those acres with good success, now most of our hunting is done on public hunting acres, where the hunters outnumber the deer ten to one.

My sons hit two deer last fall in separate accidents; totaled one car. The biggest hazard of driving in the area is the chance of hitting a deer. Almost all of my neighbors have had a family member hit a deer or a near miss in the last two years, so it is a problem.

So in conclusion, the GF&P could give out thousands of doe tags, but if those deer are on land that no one is willing to pay big money to hunt, how are you doing to bring down the deer population?

ID: 740

In reference to the “Hunting for the Hungry Program” question, I would not be interested in this if the state is paying for the processing. The program would have to provide the processing through volunteers or fundraisers, etc.

ID: 742

Public lands are over-hunted, leaving few deer. Limit hunters on public land. Pay landowners a trespass fee to hunt on them. Sell fewer buck tags and/or a 4-point rule around the Badlands National Park.

ID: 745

1. I would like black powder cartridge rifle, such as Sharps, etc. . . . legal for use during black powder/muzzleloader season, as long as black powder and iron sights are used.
2. Post season dates earlier to allow for vacation planning.

ID: 749

I would like to see a special 4-point buck tag sold over-the-counter for Black Hills, so in those years I do not receive a Black Hills tag (draw), I would be able to go with a family member who did. I personally miss the “old family – friend hunts” that I grew up with. I would like to see some over-the-counter tag for the Black Hills.

Antlerless tags – last season I had 2 tags, but the country only carried white-tail, and no mule deer in the area for the tag I had.

ID: 750

Snowmobiles need to be outlawed in the Black Hills during hunting season from October 1 – January 11. They pack the roads making many areas inaccessible, not to mention the safety hazards they create for motorists or stranded motorists they have caused. I have seen them chase elk in the Iron Creek, Little Spearfish Canyon, 76 Flats and Dry Lake areas. Many more times I’ve seen them chase deer throughout the northern Black Hills (license numbers not big enough to read).

ATV’s need to stay on established roads. They (and I have seen it) drive right through the woods in the northern Black Hills.

Ultra light air craft should be herding deer and antelope (or harassing) onto “pay-to-hunt” ranches, and they DO!

Get a handle on these problems and we would have game that is accessible, not so skittish, healthier (because they’ve had time to eat) and not causing problems where they’ve been forced and aren’t wanted.

Over-the-counter doe tags (anywhere you get a fishing license) across the state.

Outlaw pay-to-hunt areas! It’s our game. Thank you, I enjoy having input.

ID: 751

The deer population in the high hills is down. I don't think there are enough does giving birth. There should not be any doe hunting in those areas.

ID: 752

I agree with just letting landowners shoot them, and give the meat to charity if they don't it, without paying for a license or the processing. I think landowners should be able to shoot them whenever they want to without a tag if they eat it.

ID: 759

You should have a list of farmers and ranchers that have a deer problem that people can talk to.

ID: 765

I feel landowners receive one free tag; anything over that must be purchased.

ID: 768

I choose not to harvest a 2nd doe because my daughter harvest 2 antlerless deer and 3 deer was plenty of meat for our family. I think harvest (doe) is important to managing a healthy herd.

ID: 771

My only comment is that these landowners that are crying because of too many deer shouldn't get any help from you guys, because I only shoot antlerless deer. I can't eat the horns. That's why I feel people like myself, that don't abuse somebody's property and shoot to kill, and not leave them lay and use the meat, shouldn't have such a problem getting a place to hunt. I'd say more, but my hand is tired. Thanks.

ID: 775

I've applied for Black Hills deer the last 3 years and I have not received a license yet, why? I would prefer to eat deer meat over beef any day of the week. The more tags I can get, the more meat I can get to feed my family. Thanks for caring.

P.S. – In Fall River County there is so many car and truck accidents because of the overpopulation of deer of all kinds. I would prefer a deer on my grill, instead on the grill of my car.

ID: 779

I would like to see an early week for muzzleloaders before the rifle season. Since muzzleloaders are a more primitive weapon than a rifle, an opportunity to hunt them before the hysteria of rifle season would be appreciated. I recommend keeping the late muzzleloader season in place as well.

ID: 780

Spend license money on food plots on public hunting land. Don't cut hay ground on public hunting land. Leave habitat for the animals to live in. Thanks for your interest to improve hunting.

ID: 781

I reside in northeast Turner County and live in a rapidly developing area (rural houses). I believe we need to look at shotguns or muzzleloader and archery as a means of harvest,

as the dangers are too great with the heavy concentration of houses here. It would also slow down the road hunting activity as well.

ID: 782

I have bought the West River Special Buck tag several years and would like to have Corson, Dewey and Ziebach Counties included in the “any buck”. These counties now have any-deer tag gain. Last year I had more chances at mule deer bucks than white-tails in Corson County.

ID: 785

I would harvest more deer for others to eat, but have plenty for my family with two deer.

ID: 787

I'm not against antlerless deer hunting, but I'm not interested in shooting a doe. The one concern that I have is that during the antlerless deer season during November in the Black Hills, I have come across dead does, fawns or small bucks that have been shot. It appeared to me that they may have been left after the person that shot them realized their mistake, or lack of trailing a wounded deer because it was a doe. I feel the doe hunters are primarily responsible for this wanton waste.

ID: 791

I would like to see a point restriction on bucks to increase the chance for good mature bucks to be harvested. Other states have this in place and it greatly improves the chances of a good mature animal!

Antlerless deer:

1. Lower tag prices.
2. Pay landowners for access by hunter.
3. Cut back buck tags.

ID: 795

Good to see an effort to help balance the buck to doe ratio. Keep up the good work.

I think an additional rifle license option might help a lot. One any-deer/white-tail/mule deer, plus two any antlerless for \$50 to \$55.

People will shoot antlerless deer, but first of all, they want the option of shooting that once in a lifetime buck, should it show itself. Secondly, most people won't pay \$20 to \$30 to shoot an antlerless. So, offer 3 tags at the same time and cover all the bases for \$5 to \$10 more than the standard 2-tag license.

ID: 797

I would like to see the early West River season separated from the regular West River season drawings, so that you could apply for both in the first draw. It is extremely important to me that I am able to hunt in the same unit for the same type of deer (any, mule or white-tail) with my two sons (age 12 & 14), my father and my friend and his two sons.

ID: 801

Extended season will greatly help my chances of getting a deer because of my busy schedule.

ID: 803

I was unable to hunt this year because the land I hunt on was in the land lockout over predator control.

ID: 805

I was very disappointed in the 2003 deer season. My boyfriend and I hunted in an area in South Dakota that they said has an overabundance of white-tail deer; this was Perkins County. We were there for 3 days and seen a total of maybe 15 white-tail deer. This area had also had an abundance of white-tail die in large groups. We spoke with ranchers in the area and they had found large amount of white-tail dead because of disease. We also spoke with a game official about this and asked if we could trade in our white-tail tags for mule deer tags because of this reason, and he specified no. But if we shot one that was sick, he would give us another white-tail tag. Now who would want to continue hunting white-tail after that and take a chance on catching a disease? I was very disappointed in my hunt this year of 2003. I would hope that the Game, Fish and Parks would notify the license holders in advance when they are holding tags of a species that is carrying a disease and offer them the option of getting other species tags at no other charge.

ID: 810

- I would like to see the any buck tag for the Black Hills area be all month long like the normal buck tag; and be able to hunt all of the hills, instead of an area.
- I would like to see more any-deer tags sold in the prairie compared to the double tags. I feel you sell more double tags to just make more money.

ID: 811

In years where GF&P wants to significantly reduce the antlerless population, allow hunters to harvest a doe and a buck with the \$30 tag. A lot of hunters go on a deer hunting trip once (3 to 5 days) in a season. It would be too cumbersome to travel and take vacation time to go back at the end of the season for just one doe. If you live in that county, it would not be such a big ordeal, but most people travel to hunt. For one season, it would be nice to shoot that extra doe with the buck tag you originally purchased, in addition to the buck.

ID: 812

Although in some areas the deer are plentiful or overabundant, I found that in Corson County, west of Highway 65 and north of the Grand River, they are far and few between sightings. It would be beneficial if the GF&P would post the units that are overabundant in deer on their web site, or publish a pamphlet. Also, it would be nice to know how to contact farmers and ranchers that allow hunting on their property and whether or not it is free or what the cost would be.

ID: 813

I totally enjoy deer hunting. Although, I didn't kill a deer, I still enjoy the stalking and hunting. I want to kill a big buck, so I don't really hunt antlerless. I usually let town kids hunt antlerless deer on my property and in most cases if their fathers aren't available; I'll take them myself and help them fill.

The last few seasons that I've hunted, all the good bucks get illegally taken by someone before the season or at night, or shot out of a pickup window off the highway. I'm getting tired of this and wish there were more troopers in this area. I know the state wants to

harvest more deer, but it has to be done right . . . HUNT . . . NOT DRIVE BY SHOOTINGS. That way everyone has a chance at a trophy buck!

ID: 818

In my county it is getting very hard to find land to hunt without paying and paying very high fees. Then after the boys with all the money get done; shooting all the big bucks, the farmers want us to come and clean up all the does because they are over-running their land, that's not right.

ID: 819

I saw three times as many hunters as I did deer.

ID: 824

I believe the way the ranchers are treated is a bunch of bullshit. We feed the deer with hay that we work hard to put up, and you can't even give us one tag to hunt with. Then you make a landowner tag available and charge us for it. I'm sure this survey will go in the garbage, but your program sucks.

ID: 830

The population of deer on private land, and we still have to apply for a deer license and pay for a deer tag; considering that they destroy our crops and feed supply, that we the landowners are getting the short end of the stick.

ID: 831

The only comment that I have is that I think that there should be a size limit on the bucks taken. People should not shoot a buck that is smaller than a 4x4. By shooting the smaller bucks, it doesn't give them a chance to grow into a bigger buck or maybe a trophy buck.

ID: 833

I believe if the Hunters for the Hungry Program can be charged so that the hunter does not have to pay for the processing fees, then more hunters would be inclined to harvest a doe at the end of their respective season for donation to the families in need.

I also believe that if a list of the number of families or individuals (who don't hunt, but would be willingly to take a deer) could be given to either a conservation officer or meat processing plant facility. This might encourage hunters to harvest a doe for distribution to the respective family or individual. In other words, if you know that 50 families or individuals are interested in getting a deer in a certain area, then stating this prior to the start of the season may encourage hunters to harvest antlerless deer. (Note: names of the families or individuals would be kept confidential from the general public).

ID: 838

I was not happy with the way a lot of hunters use their 4-wheelers out west in Harding County to hunt. Too many of them use them to chase and flush them out of trees and draws. I talked with two game wardens out in Harding County about it, but they were having a hard time catching up to them. Now our group takes two 4-wheelers for the few of us, but we leave them parked until we get a kill to go and pickup them up. But these guys driving for them through trees and draws are wrong.

ID: 840

In my opinion, when I go West River deer hunting, I see 3 major problems that affect deer harvest numbers. 1) Too much of the land in West River has turned into pay hunting only! This is a good idea for raising bigger bucks because most landowners that do this pay hunting only let so many people hunt, but that is also the bad thing because not enough does are getting harvested. I think the best way to take care of this problem is to shut down buck hunting West River for two or three years and have it antlerless only. We then will see more lands open up to hunters to harvest does and we will see the quality of bucks greatly improve! 2) Too many people think deer hunting West River is done with a 4-wheel drive truck or a quad, which pushed the deer faster to non-hunting lands, and ruins the quality of the deer hunting as well. 3) Most of the land I have seen West River that is a Walk-In Area or public, barely will hold coyote and grouse let alone deer! Too much of this land has been grazed down to barely nothing, which doesn't make very good deer habitat. Don't get me wrong, some of these lands are very productive and have great potential, but most do not. If it is possible, I would rather see fewer Walk-In Areas that have better quality than to see as many non-productive lands that there is now. I think too many ranchers, in my opinion, have taken advantage of the states money and the slight regulations of grazing rights. It's time the state and its hunters get what we are paying for. With the combination of these three things, I think numbers of antlerless deer will be greatly reduced and the number of quality buck deer will greatly improve! Thank you for your time!

P.S. – Not too many fences are cut down, or cattle shot, or grass fires started by hunters on foot! Hunting should be for meat, not horn's only!

ID: 842

Landowners need to let people hunt deer on their land. Some, not all landowners, won't let you hunt deer. But then they turn around and complain to the state about deer eating their crops and damaging their feed. They should let more of us hunt, then they would help solve their own problems with too many deer. Thanks.

ID: 843

Refer to Question No. 7 – I think that the strategies would have helped me harvest more deer if I had wanted to, and had the time and freezer space for the hunting/meat. But I already had two deer and did not want anymore, so I answered "no", that it did not help me.

Refer to Question No. 9 – I would need more information on this program to form an informed opinion.

ID: 846

Although, I didn't have a license for the extended doe season, I was along when several "doe" were shot, only to find out they were bucks that had dropped their horns already. I am not sure if the early January hunt is such a good idea.

ID: 849

With all of the paid hunting now days, it's hard to find a place to hunt. It would be nice if the additional antlerless season didn't have to take place on private property.

ID: 853

Cheap tags, buy one – get one free. Free in certain areas or very inexpensive (\$5 to \$10).

ID: 854

A couple of question I have related to the landowner tags:

1. Why can't I apply for a landowner tag on-line like the other big game licenses?
2. Why can't I purchase additional doe tags after I have gotten an antler landowner's tag?

ID: 867

I felt the extra week immediately after the season was a great idea. I have only one problem with the January season. In 2001, all of the bucks on my property (over 20 in number) dropped their antlers before Christmas. Since we manage our area for a good buck to doe ratio we try to take antlerless deer, but if that were the situation again, we would not allow other hunters in for fear of damaging our buck population. We did harvest nine does during the January season, off of our property. Finding hunters was the only problem we had.

ID: 869

The fee for taking an antlerless deer could be lowered more. Allow landowners a free antlerless deer tag.

ID: 876

We have too many antlerless deer in Gregory County. They are, in my opinion, going to be inbred.

ID: 877

How about using donated venison for making jerky and deer sticks for our soldiers in Iraq?

ID: 878

This year was the first year in five years that I did not get an East River deer tag (was out of state for most of the season). I hunt East River deer in Hyde County on land that belongs to my best friend and his father. Every year I see big groups of just does (20 to 25), and it is very easy to fill my doe tags. There are several people that hunt this area and fill their doe tags, but it doesn't even put a dent in the population. Something needs to be done to help thin out the herds, because every year there seems to be more and more does.

I also hunt West River deer in Corson County. This is where I grew up and my family still farms there. I have hunted since I was 14 years old and have been very successful in harvesting all the deer I have wanted. The doe population has always been steady and never seemed to really get out of control they way it has East River. I feel this is because West River has more natural predators (like coyotes) and less farm ground (to supply easy meals for deer). I have never had a problem getting any-deer tags for hunting deer.

I also feel if there were more places to donate deer meat for the Hunters for the Hungry Program and there was no cost to the hunter, there would be more deer meat than you could shake a stick at. I know that I would harvest an extra deer or two just for this reason.

ID: 885

- Leave antlerless deer season open from the end of the rifle season to the end of January, and for archery from the end of the season to the end of January.
- Put some sort of penalty on out-of-state hunters, buying/leasing land only for hunting and closing it to locals.
- Make the East/West River go away after the rifle season ends and open statewide for either.

ID: 889

I am in favor of your January 1 – January 11 antlerless deer hunt for two reasons.

1. At that time of the year the deer, especially does and fawns, are in their wintering areas and are showing the approximate size of the herd in that area.
2. The January dates also allow the tail end of the rut to happen without a lot of hunting pressure. This will also allow the deer to settle down, and make the does easier to harvest.

ID: 891

We always hunt deeded land in Corson County. I know it is a sensitive area, but know the tribal permits certainly effects the number of bucks available. The past few years we have seen very few decent bucks. Not sure what you can do about it, but it is an observation.

ID: 897

Myself and my two sons enjoy hunting together. Two years ago, we drew six tags first choice and filled four. This year with no preference points we drew no first choice and only one second choice of the six applied for. I took a two-tag leftover just north of Hot Springs and hunted one day, and there were very few deer on the public land there.

Perhaps a change could be made to get more hunters out by giving first choice of a type to all, before awarding a second or more first choices to the same individual. Some years I have drawn (2) first choices, and the next none. I think more first choices for two tags would get more hunters out.

ID: 898

I think that the GF&P attempts to get antlerless deer harvested (2003) were good plans. I didn't get to take full advantage of these plans due to my involvement in building my house. If these management plans are used again, I will do more hunting to help control deer populations.

ID: 902

I had a West River deer license in Perkins County – mule deer tags. I hunted for 3 days; saw lots of bucks and does, but I held out for a trophy mule deer. On my last day just before dark I knew I was going home, so I shot a mule deer doe to fill my tag. I live in Brookings, so I wasn't going to drive 5-½ hours back out to Perkins County just to fill my other tag. So, I was wondering if you would let hunters that have either West/East River unfilled tags shoot the remaining tags either in their own county or another designated county; a county with a high density of deer. Thank you.

ID: 906

Around are part of the country we have too many does and not enough bucks.

ID: 907

We need more public land for walk-in hunting.

ID: 922

2003 was my first year of hunting deer. I had a Mellette County “any-deer” tag and chose to take a doe, simply because that taste better. Had I known farther in advance about an extended doe season; I would have taken another doe. I hope to do that very thing in 2004, to both feed my family and help control the population. I do like to have that “any-deer” tag, just in case I do find that big buck, but it holds little importance to me to shoot anything less than a five-point buck. I only really have the time to hunt for one day at a time, and I can hunt for the big buck all day. With the doe population being so tremendous, if I don’t find him, the likelihood of not going home with a doe at the end of the day is very slim. In fact, I was very surprised to learn that there wasn’t a “minimum point” requirement for bucks. (Certain fish have length requirements).

ID: 925

Re-educate the hunting public; hunting is a privilege, not necessarily a right. Change the liability laws, the hunting public has to assume more responsibility for their own actions, and respect for other people’s property. These two items by themselves will change landowner attitudes about access; they have game they would like harvested. We like hunters; we don’t like slob hunters.

ID: 929

Few white-tail West River (Harding and Butte Counties). Time to re-think white-tail situation.

ID: 934

Do not limit tags to a particular type of land, i.e., private land. Allow tags of all types to be used for antlerless deer the week following a regular season in that area on public and private land.

In Black Hills areas, antlerless tags should follow the regular season (Nov. 1 - 30).

ID: 936

The future of me hunting in South Dakota depends solely on the rancher and Game, Fish and Park’s relationship! I’ve already been told that if there isn’t something done about aerial hunting on coyotes and the unrestricted entrance of private land by conservation officers, the landowners plan on shutting out hunters this fall to protest the Game, Fish and Parks Department!

ID: 937

There seems to be more bucks in Wyoming. Out-of-state hunters that pay the ranchers for hunting dominate a lot of land in South Dakota. Some private landowners let too many people hunt and it makes it harder to fill a tag. Some areas need more minerals, water, etc. for proper growth. Some water bodies in Butte County are lacking.

ID: 939

I was unable to hunt in 2003, as I was in the hospital since October 15, 2003.

ID: 943

1. I like the lottery type drawing system now, even when I don't draw the Black Hills or my elk tag, I think it is a fair system.
2. If you want to hunt - send in, don't let licenses be sold through agents. People that are not responsible to send in for tags are also not responsible in the field, and disrespectful to ranchers/farmers. We don't need people out shooting at movement like in the past. If you want to offer extra tags, that's fine, but please do it through a drawing.
3. I'm concerned about deer herd numbers, north of Wall, SD (302 Area). I hunt every day at our cabin on private land and very seldom see the quantity number of deer it use to be. Be wise not to over-harvest, or we won't have no hunting at all. Thank you.

P.S. – Also in my opinion, the farmers who don't let you hunt, then no state money for lost feed. They want the best of both PAID hunting and a fat check from the state for hay; that's just wrong. No deer is worth paying to shoot. God put them on earth, not the farm/rancher (for Pete sake).

ID: 945

Remember . . . these are positive statements.

- We have too many deer in the Black Hills area. I was turned down for a tag. However, hundreds and hundreds are killed on South Dakota roadways.
- Deer licenses are too expensive. Why are antlerless tags for rifle hunters cheaper than archery or muzzleloader tags (\$20 vs. \$15)?
- Antlerless tags in problem areas should be free or reduced \$ considerably.
- I hunt counties with large deer numbers, but was restricted to one doe archery tag and one muzzleloader tag. Due to licenses were gone after the 1st drawing.
- Black Hills deer need to be reduced.
- Special Buck tag . . . let us hunt longer. Maybe all of November like the Black Hills unit.
- In order to harvest a buck, hunters would be required to harvest 1 or 2 does.
- Please reduce price on deer licenses . . . maybe \$45 for a buck license and 3 doe tags.
- Hunters for Hungry Program – needs to be free (no processing fee).

Thank you!

ID: 957

Good changes for 2003. Do what you can to keep deer hunting the exclusive privilege of the rich. Thanks!

ID: 965

It would be nice to see some doe/antlerless deer population control in the Black Hills. Control above what is currently in place.

I had my doubts about some of the things GF&P was putting into place a few years back, especially dealing with Black Hills deer, but I would like to commend you on your efforts and great results.

The one thing I still wish you would pursue is a 3-point+ for Black Hills bucks. It is a shame seeing so many 2-point yearlings being shot right off the road. When driving to my hunting spots, I would commonly see 2-points and very seldom see 3-points. Actually parking the vehicle results in seeing better bucks, but the point remains that I see so many young 2-points being killed.

ID: 976

Why did you close the public Walk-In Areas for the extended season, when there are so many farmers and ranchers that either won't let us hunt or they want to charge an arm and a leg, and they are bitching because the deer are eating their hay and crops, etc., etc.! I work 5 days (10 hours a day) each week, so the only time I have is weekends!

ID: 982

My hunting season was limited due to heart by-pass surgery. Usually, I hunt 8 to 9 days before I take a deer, not that they aren't available. I enjoy the hunt and I'm selective; big buck or nice sized doe. I am not a "HORN" hunter exclusively.

ID: 983

My hunting group had four guys in it, and together we had six total tags for West River deer in Unit 327A. We hunted hard for about 6 days with almost no sight of any deer. We all went deerless for the season, even after a later trip for more hunting. Was there a problem with that unit or was I just that unlucky? We still had an excellent time on the trip, but would have been nice to get at least one deer.

ID: 988

Extended rifle season should not be during the muzzleloader season. Each one should have a season by themselves.

ID: 990

I think that a lot more antlerless tags would get filled if/and donated to Hunters for the Hungry Program, if the hunter did not have to pay for processing. Antlerless tags could also come with a list of places to take donated deer. Thanks.

ID: 994

I like the antlerless deer tag during antelope season. It is getting more restrictive to hunt public land; somebody forgot it is public land, not the game wardens.

Why is it legal for a farmer/rancher to sell deer and call it a trespass fee? Out-of-state hunters should start there drawing in the second chance and leave first chance for residents! Put out more any-deer licenses, instead of any white-tail or mule deer.

Public land as Walk-In only is a violation of our rights! That land is public, not the people setting behind a desk in Pierre!

ID: 1002

I would like to say that I've moved here 5 years ago, and I still find it hard to get to know people out here to get permission from them just to hunt deer, let alone birds. I guess I would like to see more public places to hunt.

ID: 1003

Cheaper out-of-state license for doe only. Please note I strongly disagree with the decision to allow road hunting of any kind. Pheasant hunters drive by my place all day

long, shooting out of their windows, stopping in the middle of the road, and now they can even walk down my fence line and hunt on my land. Road hunters are not hunters; they are littering drunks that throw their beer bottles in the ditch for me to run over with my tractor. Thanks.

ID: 1004

The state should be divided into 4 sections. The hunter then would be able to hunt in more than one county. The State of Minnesota does this, and talking to Minnesota hunters it works out quite well.

ID: 1007

I feel that the food plots in the public hunting areas need more maintenance.

ID: 1008

I would gladly harvest more antlerless deer to donate to Hunters for the Hungry Program, if I did not have to pay for processing.

ID: 1015

I definitely feel we need to be more aggressive in reducing the population of deer in some areas of South Dakota.

Hundreds of deer are killed annually on our roads, which has caused several problems. Higher insurance costs, increased cost of auto body repair and even death to some of our people.

As we have so many hungry people in this country, I would like to see it become mandatory for hunters to donate one deer to this cause. In doing this, it should not be the responsibility of the hunter to pay for processing. Getting the deer to a drop off station is cost enough to the hunter.

I do hope that you will be able to make enough changes in 2004 to make our roadways safer for our deer and our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice an opinion.

ID: 1017

Allow scopes on muzzleloaders, so old men can see the sights.

ID: 1018

Not everyone can shoot bucks. I agree that to control the deer herd, does must be shot.

ID: 1035

I prefer to shoot a buck, but the week before rifle season to the end of the season, I will shoot a doe. This year, I passed up six bucks that were 15" and smaller. I felt that the deer population wasn't what it was in years past, so I decided to shoot a doe. I don't know why you keep increasing the licenses in Grant County, because there isn't as many deer as what people think there is, and it makes it hard for bow hunters.

ID: 1036

I would like to see the youth season extended into the January 1 – 11 season. It can be challenging to get a deer for the youth, once the regular rifle season is over. Another reason is that not all landowners will let even a youth hunt during the youth season

because they don't want the deer spooked off their property because they will be hunting the January 1 – 11 season. Therefore, if the youth can hunt January 1 – 11, it gives them more options of landowners where deer have been pushed onto land where you can obtain permission.

ID: 1037

I would be nice to get a list of farmers that want you to hunt in the counties you can get extra archery or rifle tags, so you could get a hold of them to hunt on their land.

ID: 1039

While I sure like to look for Mr. Big, my family eats a lot of deer, and the chance for antlerless tags provides this at the same time. It also adds more days of hunting, which is what it's all about.

ID: 1044

I was not aware of all the new strategies. If I would have know, I would have applied for an antlerless. I am also picking up archery and muzzleloader to be able to spend more outdoor time and harvest more deer.

ID: 1046

Make any unfilled "any-deer" archery tags change to "antlerless" tags from January 1 – January 11.

ID: 1047

The extended hunting season for antlerless deer should also apply to those of us who applied and received licenses in the Moreau Park.

ID: 1049

I have noticed the past couple of years a large number of road kills. I believe the extended season is a good idea in reducing the population and making highways safer at night.

ID: 1052

I would have hunted, but I lost the ground I had to hunt on because of a hunting lease that started on January 1st, and I didn't have enough time to follow-up on looking for more ground to hunt. I guess it's time to quit deer hunting altogether.

ID: 1059

This year was my first real hunt. I've hunted deer before, but this year I hunted with an experienced hunter who has friends and relatives who own land. He had us walk and do things you normally would not do because you would not know how. He took my brother-in-law and I, and it was so enjoyable getting out and learning that we can't wait for next year. I (we) only had double doe tags because we wanted to see how it went gutting, cleaning, butchering, eating, etc. It all went great, so next year I and he would like to have 4 tags.

ID: 1061

While hunting in Butte County, I was harassed and or kicked off School and Public Lands during antelope and deer seasons. Lots of deer on the land, but very disappointing to have to deal with this situation. Could these lands be posted? Could these lessees be reminded who owns the hunting rights. Really makes one think about applying for a license again.

ID: 1065

I probably would have never hunted as hard or covered as much areas as I did this year from woods in Sica Hollow, to sloughs and tree groves, to abandoned farms. I did not see anywhere near the deer I was use to seeing. In 5 days of hunting, I did not see a antlered deer to even shoot at, and saw very few does as well. I'm confused, where were they.

ID: 1070

More buck tags for East River!

ID: 1072

Allowing to hunt GF&P land in the extended season would be a great help.

ID: 1081

A scope on my muzzleloader would have aided in harvesting another doe I missed. I would put one on toady if that law was changed.

ID: 1082

More tags around Trent, SD area.

ID: 1086

We need to find a way to get more landowners to open their land to public hunting. Maybe we could give a tax break to landowners that will allow public hunting on their land.

The only way we are going to reduce the size of the herd is to get to the deer. Right now large numbers of deer are protected because landowners cannot be contacted.

Good job in doing more to let hunters reduce the herd this year! Thank you.

ID: 1089

It seemed like I saw more deer before the season started! Even in areas that weren't hunted hard.

I wish people could get a deer license more often. Seems like a lot of people only get one very 3 years.

Seems like there's a lot of "redneck" hunters. I always get permission if I'm going off my land on to my renter's land. Some people think just because they live in the area, they have a right to hunt land even without permission. Too many of them "hunt" from their pickups. I don't like that style at all.

Hunting is a great and fun experience, even if I don't get a deer (getting one is better). A few people ruin it for others sometimes.

Referring to the question of harvesting more antlerless deer: issue more licenses per county. That way a person doesn't have to wait 3 years to be able to go hunting.

ID: 1093

During harvest of our crops we seen a lot of deer, but as soon as the first bad weather, the deer took cover along the river (Sioux) or Newton Hills, and I don't like hunting in either area. So, that is the reason for not getting a deer this year.

ID: 1095

For several years I did not get a deer license in South Dakota. My name was not drawn while other hunters were able to apply for a multiple deer license. I only want one deer and feel that to get a better chance in the draw, I'm forced/blackmailed into applying for a more expensive license. I'd rather see more individual licenses issued, rather than fewer multiple deer licenses, or have two or three seasons for rifle if there is a concern that there will be too many hunters in one season, if saturation of a district is a concern. I realize I can apply for a multiple license and only harvest one deer, but why should I pay more for what I didn't want to begin with?

ID: 1096

I would be more than willing to participate in a pool of hunters assigned to harvest more deer, either sex. The only limitation is having enough access to areas where there are more deer.

One way to increase the harvest of antlerless deer after the regular season would be to compile a list of landowners that would like to reduce the number of deer on their land that can be contacted by individual hunters. I know that a lot of landowners, their relatives and friends want to pursue just bucks and won't let people hunt on their land for that reason. If these same people are assured that someone will shoot only does and leave the bucks for them, they may consider allowing additional people to hunt heir land, especially after the regular season. So, by compiling a list and matching hunters and landowners, you may be able to increase the harvest of antlerless deer. A lack of places to hunt is the major limiting factor to not being able to shoot more deer.

I agree with the lower price structure of the antlerless tags, otherwise there isn't an incentive to purchase more tags. I purchased an additional double antlerless tag with the intention of shooting the deer to give away the meat to friends who needed the help. (I process my own deer and won't pay processing to give it away).

The late season (January) becomes more difficult to hunt your normal places, as the deer are yarding up on other properties that are off limits.

ID: 1103

The public hunting has been more crowded with hunters. It would be a bonus if landowners would allow antlerless deer hunting on their land without charging.

ID: 1108

In the past I have applied for the Special Buck permit. I do this in order to hunt a lot of different places in search of a trophy buck. I don't like shooting small bucks and would rather let my tag expire worthless than take a small buck that could have the potential to be a trophy animal. I would like to see the Special Buck Permit turn into an antlerless permit as the any-deer permit does for the extended season. If need be, the applicant would have to specify which county the antlerless tag would be used if the hunter was unsuccessful in taking a buck during the regular season.

ID: 1110

Implement earn a buck and make people fill a doe tag to get a buck tag.

ID: 1121

I thought the GF&P did an excellent job this past year to increase the harvest of antlerless deer. I hope they continue this program.

ID: 1127

The lack of open land to hunt is a large problem. CRP and other good public land to hunt are hard to come by making it increasingly hard to find and hunt deer.

ID: 1129

The GF&P is doing a good job trying to manage the deer population. Converting the tags to antlerless is exactly what we need to keep the herds in balance. Either we control the numbers or Mother Nature will through disease and starvation.

If there were a reduced fee or no fee for processing donated meat, I would harvest more.

There should be a lot of landowners with an overabundance of deer that would allow access to the land.

This survey is an excellent idea! Thank you.

ID: 1130

The reason I didn't fill my West River tags was because we applied for white-tail and received mule deer tags. The land we hunt has plenty of white-tails and not many mulies. Thank you for this opportunity to help the GF&P!

ID: 1138

The deer hunting season in McPherson County was not very good this year. There were too many hunters that started scouting for deer in advance. Due to this, the deer were more difficult to spot and it was harder to get close enough to get a good shot.

ID: 1143

Just put out the amount of deer tags you want to reduce the herd. Set a rifle season of three weekends and two weeks, and be done with it. The extra seasons or potential extra seasons let deer hunters wait until they have time or just feel like going out hunting. If there are more seasons there is no hurry to finish. More tags sold is mainly what you need.

Deer hunting is going out to find a special deer and make a hunt of it. Reducing the deer here (because there are too many) is deer shooting.

ID: 1146

I would like to thank the Game, Fish and Parks Department for their hard work and dedication to preserve the history of hunting and fishing in South Dakota. Lately, all I hear is the negativity surrounding the GF&P. I would personally like to see the farmers and ranchers take a look at the future, instead of worrying about how their going to make their next buck. Hunting and fishing for me has steadily gotten better for me over the years. I attribute my success to the amount of cover (Walk-In Areas, CRP and GF&P lands) that the state provides. The quality of animals along with their abundance is

substantially better than it was 15 years ago. I think the state is doing a great job! I'm also a big fan of the double tag licenses that have been available the last couple of years.

Keep up the Great Work!

ID: 1153

I believe it is an outrage that people from outside counties and states can get tags, before landowners can. Landowners are the one's who feed and water them, why shouldn't they have first choice. If this continues, landowners will stop all hunting on private land, which are all ready happening and the doe problem will only grow. Let's use a little common sense.

ID: 1159

Giving doe tags for archery, instead of having the draw. There are a lot of people that pass so many does during archery because of the fact that they didn't make the draw and want a buck with their bow because it's such a challenge. Maybe have doe tags like the any-deer tags. I think that would help the doe population, too. Give more tags out for muzzleloader, because I for one have a hard time remembering to send in because it's so early and I never see the leftovers. Maybe even put dates in the fishing manuals that would remind hunters of the dates that everything needs to be in, because in June and July I'm still thinking fishing and by the time I think of hunting I've already missed some of the due dates. Just some ideas.

P.S. – The biggest problem is finding places to hunt Eastern. Western there is so much public land you don't have any problem. It's Great!

ID: 1169

Dear GF&P:

I think this was a very fair and informative survey. I wish more surveys were this good. I hope it will be useful in determining upcoming seasons. I would like to say a few things about my white-tail hunting experiences from the last couple years.

I generally apply for license and hunt in Deuel County. I hunt on my father's land and adjacent neighbors. Deer numbers have increased in the last few years in and around his farms.

Things I have noticed: 1) Deer are becoming harder to predict and hunt. Deer tend to leave home areas and herd onto land that can't be hunted. Deer are learning, after years of safe haven, where there is no hunting pressure. These safe havens are holding most of the deer after the corn is harvested, fields are tilled, snow has fallen and the opening first day of the season. 2) Many of these safe havens are landowners' fields and farm groves that are being subsidized through CRP. These landowners won't let hunters on because they want to charge for hunting, enjoy all the deer, are saving their land for the chance to shoot one or two deer (trophies), or are landowners having CRP that don't live in state, and local hunters don't know how to contact them for permission. This frustrates me and dozens, and even hundreds of other hunters.

Some possible solutions: 1) GF&P needs to come up with a program to identify none huntable private lands, and contact these landowners. 2) Provide some kind of agreement with these landowners to start letting hunters take deer or start holding them liable for crop damage, and personal property damage (auto's). 3) GF&P try to identify

out-of-state landowners, so hunters can call for permission. 4) Work with the Federal Farm Program to reduce CRP payments to landowners that will not allow hunting on their CRP lands. Landowners are going to have to start taking more responsibility in managing their deer. 5) GF&P continue to get more food plots on Walk-In Areas and Wildlife/Waterfowl Production Areas. I would like to see more food plots on public ground that is in close proximity to deer herd safe havens on private land. 6) Get insurance companies involved in pressuring non-responsive landowners.

A lot of these solutions may not be practical and maybe are a little radical, but if some new approaches are not tried, the deer population will continue to rise until Mother Nature harshly reduces white-tail deer through disease or high winter mortality. Legislation may need to be passed.

I know I am only one voice, but some of the solutions mentioned above could be tried. Thank you.

P.S. – I like the food/hunger program. If hunters didn't have to provide processing, I think hunters would apply for more licenses and shoot more deer.

ID: 1170

The landowners should make it known where they have too many deer. Then they should let anyone legally take a doe.

ID: 1173

East River, _____ would not let me hunt on his land when he had over 100 head of deer in Hyde County.

ID: 1175

In Clay County it is very hard to find a buck with any size. The reason, we (the hunters) don't let many bucks reach maturity. I personally do not shoot does, but if the Game, Fish and Parks said we want or we need you to shoot does, then I would. I realize that Clay County does not have a large population of deer, but I feel if you want more antlerless deer shot, then only sell antlerless tags for one year with two tags for the price of one. That would help decrease the deer population and also increase the number of large bucks for the following year.

ID: 1179

I really like the idea of being able to donate the deer without having to pay to have it processed. Hunters need more land to hunt on because many landowners won't let antlerless deer hunters hunt because they don't want "the big buck" scared off their land for next year.

ID: 1180

I believe harvest of antlerless deer is necessary, but we need to make sure the deer population and buck to doe ratio allows the harvest of extra does, not just to gain revenue!

I suggest dividing all rifle hunters into two groups alphabetically by last name, and only allowing the first group.

ID: 1187

Landowners should not be charged for a license, we spend part of our crop to feed them each year. Thanks.

ID: 1191

Issue buck tags where you must kill a 4-point or bigger. If not, it can be used for an antlerless tag. This would also help younger bucks to mature.

ID: 1199

I like to hunt for bucks on my own land. It doesn't need to be a trophy buck. I hunt deer for the outdoor experience, killing a deer is secondary.

I would be more willing to take an antlerless deer, as a second tag, if I could donate it to the needy and not have to pay for the processing.

Keep up the Good Work!

ID: 1204

Additional archery tags!

ID: 1205

I don't think there should be an extended antlerless season. I don't think there should be any person that should have to harvest more than 3 deer in the regular season.

ID: 1208

I hunt near Hecla, SD, and the biggest problem that we have is the cattails and all of the public walk-ins. There is just way too much cover for the deer. The deer walk in and you cannot get them to move. We know they're in there because of all the fresh tracks and droppings. We see them go in. So many people had a hard time finding a deer during the day, but once nightfall comes the deer are so thick it's not even funny!

This was the first year that during regular rifle season I saw one deer and shot once, filling one of my two antlerless tags.

We tried everything, large walking groups, sitting and everything, but the deer just will not move.

ID: 1228

- Maybe have the antlerless deer tags be two for one, or lower the price and maybe that will help; or
- Take in some counties and have 2 or 3 years of whatever amount and just give out antlerless tags so they slim down and the bucks would get bigger; or
- Take and reduce the amount of buck tags in certain counties for about 2 years in certain counties, then the antlerless deer will maybe be slimmed down and we might have large bucks to hang on our walls.

ID: 1234

In my area, I feel that there are plenty of antlerless deer around. We need to stop the shooting of smaller buck deer and let them grow up for better hunting.

ID: 1243

I don't really like the extended season because it interferes with bow season.

ID: 1250

We had a severe disease hit southeast Charles Mix County that killed hundreds of deer. The antlerless season was a good idea, but you were one year too late. I think employees at the Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge could verify this loss.

ID: 1258

I got my first deer last year.

ID: 1261

I really agree with the special season and feel the need to thin the population to prevent disease. Even though I did not harvest any deer, I passed up many nice does and bucks because they were difficult shots that I felt I could not accurately hit. Being how hunting to me is a privilege that is beneficial if you get meat. My dad and brother each got a deer West River, therefore we had enough meat for a year. It was not very important if I got one, because all the meat would not be used and that would just be a waste. So keep up the good work GF&P. Thanks.

ID: 1267

The lockout in West River counties – I think GF&P could return my money I sent to them for my license.

ID: 1272

The party that this survey was sent to is a twelve year old. This was his first deer hunt. We (him and his father) discussed this questionnaire, and agreed that with me having more years of experienced deer hunting, his father would probably be best filling out the survey.

ID: 1280

This was the first time I bought a license. I have not hunted deer before and I could not find the time to go this year.

ID: 1284

I think you should give this new program a year or two to see how it works out, it seems to me that it should be very effective.

ID: 1286

I'm still not happy with Cooper taking a friend of Janklow's hunting elk when I have tried for 8 years and never got a permit; an out-of-state person at that.

ID: 1288

If a rancher wants help with deer control, he should be forced to allow hunting on his land. My main complaint is that I own 1,016 acres and live in South Dakota, but cannot get a landowners permit because I don't farm the land or live on it, or in the county where I own land.

ID: 1289

I believe the best decision the GF&P made was to extend the seasons for one week. The January season was also a bonus. For most people the nine day season is too short.

ID: 1294

There has to be more public hunting areas. The landowners are becoming too greedy and hunting is too commercial. If a landowner takes a government payment, such as

payments to take land out of production, then they should not be allowed to harvest the game for profit. We as taxpayers pay their subsidy payments via the federal income tax and South Dakota taxes. If they don't allow, or if there isn't a place for non-landowners to hunt, the next time PETA comes knocking the left out hunters will help them to end hunting.

ID: 1297

My only problem this year was I put in for an any-deer license. I did not get it, so I ended up with a white-tail buck and doe license. When I went out hunting, I found only good shots at mule deer, and not any white-tail. Naturally, I had to not shoot, and ended up with nothing.

ID: 1298

I feel that when landowners get mad at Game, Fish and Parks, they close their land to hunters that maybe they should have too many deer.

Also, I feel Game, Fish and Parks should do more to get access to BLM land. Out west where BLM land is surrounded with private land, there is not marking showing the correction line.

ID: 1299

The extended deer season in January is difficult due to the winter weather. It would help to have it earlier many years due to weather and winter snow. It would help to have two weekends to make it easier for the hunter to hunt due to job requirement to be at jobs.

ID: 1300

Doe hunting is important for control of the population, but for control why do you include the whole county; in my area we don't have that many deer. Why don't we use townships or describe the area that has the problem; if you include the whole county you are not solving the problem.

ID: 1302

From what I see with the plan to reduce the deer population, it did not work very well in this area. Looks like they shot most of the bucks off, and most of the doe and fawn are still here.

ID: 1304

- Too many licenses for the amount of deer.
- Too many can't do in hunting, like road hunt, drive in on Walk-In Areas, and can't shoot off of roads.

When you get 65 years of age, it is very hard for us to hunt. I was very unhappy about this hunting season. No deer to hunt.

ID: 1305

First of all I bought my tags right away, so I paid full price for them. I would like to have had a few more weeks to hunt with my muzzleloader before the rifle season started again, as the deer never really settled down. If you were in the country, and they saw a car, they were gone. I have talked to a lot of people who saw the same thing. So I do not know the answer to that. The rifle season starts much too early. I would love to see the youth hunter have a chance at hunting for a buck. I would like to take out young hunters and not have to worry about someone shooting at us.

ID: 1310

Stop pickup hunters with large fines!

ID: 1311

Have East River season start earlier/sooner. Start sooner, like Antelope and West Prairie seasons.

ID: 1318

I would love to hunt deer for the Hunters for the Hungry Program because these families don't have the money or the time to hunt, and they need the food; and they don't have the money that it takes to buy the licenses it takes to hunt the deer.

ID: 1322

I have hunted in South Dakota 50+ years. I enjoy the outdoors. It isn't the kill, it's just seeing and being able to walk the great outdoors. License price is too high. I don't think you would of needed the new office in Chamberlain, SD, or the new pickup trucks (gas burners). It use to make me mad to see them go to Pierre for their meeting in three-quarter ton trucks and not car pool.

In 1950 – 1960, the game warden would visit with the farmers and ranchers to see if they had any problems, or just stop for coffee. When I talk to different people and the Game, Fish and Parks is mentioned, it is always said that the department is too big and powerful, and no one to answer to.

ID: 1324

I think that it would be better to close the deer season for at least one week after the pheasant season and to give the deer time to move buck into those areas.

I also think that maybe it would stimulate a little more harvest if the season only ran for three days and had a few weeks to calm down before hunting starts again.

ID: 1328

I like to harvest respectable bucks when they are available and will pass up smaller bucks. However, I would much rather shoot a doe then a small, immature buck.

This is a difficult year for muzzleloading because of fall tillage in my area. It changed the deer movement in the area. Also, I received a muzzleloader license for Brule County. Only had one day to hunt, but saw many deer. Because of the limited range of the muzzleloader, I passed up shots all day. Enjoyed the entire year, however I was successful with both East and West River licenses.

Two Suggestions:

1. If the issue is decreasing the size of the doe population, why aren't we allowed to use scopes on our muzzleloaders. We still can't take more than one shot a minute. My friend and I are both over 50 and our eyesight is not as strong as it used to be. What's the difference (it makes no sense).
2. Please do not allow commercial hunting to ruin the deer season in the same way it has destroyed the pheasant season for the average South Dakota hunter.

ID: 1329

Illegal road hunting and trespassing without permission. The area I hunt has abundant cover and many people think they have the right to drive past and shoot from the road and hunt without permission.

ID: 1330

The land I own is in Miner County. It was my grandparent's farm where I grew up and I have hunted there all my life. The best part of the whole hunt this year for me was being with my son, Chad during the hunt, and staying at the farm with my mom and her feeding us wonderful meals.

I think more people would hunt antlerless deer if the price of the tags were reduced. I also think that more people would give their meat to the Hunters for the Hungry Program, if they didn't have to pay for the processing.

Basically, as far as the meat goes, one deer is enough for me and is about all the meat that I have storage available.

ID: 1332

More huntable ground.

ID: 1336

In general, I prefer hunting bucks because they are more of a challenge. If given a choice, I'll always hunt bucks.

GF&P need to do more to educate the public on the need to harvest antlerless deer. A well publicized procedure of free processing of meat for the needy would be a large enough incentive for me to assist. Without this, the work involved in processing the meat is not sufficient for me to hunt does.

I've hunted on private lands in Texas. Rules are that of a party of 4 or larger, one had to take a doe. Perhaps this concept could work on party drawings or for repeat hunters in the same unit; a doe license must be taken before accepting applications again for bucks.

ID: 1338

I would like to have a point system on bucks taken. Nothing less than a 4-point. If a mistake were made, one would use his or her tag, and then donate it to the food pantry. Then put out more any-deer tags. Personally, if I can't shoot a trophy, I will shoot an antlerless deer at the end of the season.

ID: 1339

Deer season for me was good. Even the weather was just right and this was the first time I was able to hunt with my oldest son. We did not harvest any deer, we just never had a good shot, even though there was plenty of deer. Already looking forward to next season, who knows, maybe I'll even get to fill my tags, as my wife and I enjoy fresh deer meat. Thank you.

ID: 1341

Having some time to hunt during Christmas vacation (last week of December) while the boys are out of school, would have been okay. Reporting 10 days seems like a lot, when

it is only for an hour or two each day. That's not your problem; my (our schedules) just didn't let us spend as much time at it as we would have like this year.

Next year, we'll try to dedicate more time so we can all go together. Restricting households to 2 landowner bucks has bothered the boys, they are more inclined to hunt for the trophy than I am. Thanks.

ID: 1347

My hunting situation is somewhat different because my job only allows me a few days to hunt. I think you are doing a great job of managing the deer population. Keep it up.

ID: 1348

I do not feel there should be out-of-state licenses when there are residents who do not get a license on the drawing.

ID: 1352

Reason for not filling my doe tag was that I had several friends here hunting, and we got seven tags filled by watching the deer come into the trees, then hunting them out. After all the guys left, I had enough hunting, but I didn't put much effort into it.

Later on they bunched and were too damn wild to even get a shot. When there are more than 4 together, and they've been hunted for a week, it gets pretty tough.

ID: 1354

If we have too many antlerless deer that need to be harvested, wouldn't it be smart to let landowners have the opportunity to hunt at no cost?

1. We let them eat our crops?
2. We let them eat our feed?
3. We let them hit our cars?
4. Why can't us, as landowners, harvest antlerless deer for \$0 cost?

Just a thought, think about it.

ID: 1356

1. Archery permits with a free doe tag or \$5 or so added on.
2. Archery season – free doe tag good for the first 30 days only (of season).
3. Cheaper doe only – archery season.
4. Groups that want deer meat; contact a hunter or 2, on getting their meat.

ID: 1358

The process of spotlighting legally should be eliminated.

ID: 1359

I enjoy all types of hunting. When it comes to hunting deer, I hunt for the joy of the case. I like the idea of an "any-deer" tag because if I would be lucky enough to come across a "good buck", I could "invite him home for supper". However, I do not believe in hunting "horns". I hunt for pot meat. I plan on hunting with both rifle and bow next year.

ID: 1360

I believe the extended season put pressure on the bucks because people hunted the whole season for bucks knowing they could shoot a doe later. We need to kill the does.

ID: 1362

1. Allow landowners to have licenses to resell to out-of-state hunters.
2. Charge out-of-state hunters \$5000 or above for the licenses.
3. Out-of-state hunters can shoot a 4-point buck or bigger (only).
4. Landowner charges what he wants for that license.
5. In exchange for this, the landowner must allow an in-state hunter access to his land (free of charge) for every out-of-state hunter he lets hunt.

Conclusion:

- The State GF&P wins – increased revenue.
- The in-state hunter wins – access to private property. He would not get to hunt, otherwise.
- Last, the landowner will be compensated for the depredation the deer do without going through GF&P.

I do not let anyone hunt during the regular season because the game warden in _____ will not acknowledge us when we have a complaint. Seems like we need to call 3 times or more, not good!

Please call me on my issues that I have expressed and the game warden's PR. Until the GF&P listen to the farmers a little, I will never let anyone hunt my land. The hunters are good sportsmen, but the GF&P suck.

P.S. – I will be glad to visit with you on these issues.

ID: 1363

I used to live in Colorado and they sold muzzleloader buck licenses over-the-counter, and this season was after archery started, but before high-power rifle season opened.

I wish South Dakota would do this because it is a lot harder getting a deer with muzzleloader after they have been shot at for three seasons of high-power.

I would be a lot happier with muzzleloader season before high power. Thank you.

ID: 1364

Black powder season before rifle season.

ID: 1366

You need to let the landowners have some deer tags to sue for his family and friends, only to be used on his property. I have many deer that winter on my property each year (100 to 300)! It seems that to pay for a deer license is a streak. I let as many doe hunters hunt that want to, and I still have too many deer each winter in my hay and ear corn. If I had tags to give to people, I could reduce my losses. Thank you.

ID: 1368

It was hard to find deer in my area for the antlerless season! They were bunched up in Roberts and Grant Counties. Hunting pressure had pushed all the does across county lines. I live and hunt one mile from the Roberts and Grant county lines!

ID: 1370

In the past, I participated in winter depredation hunts. I enjoyed being part of the “s.w.a.t. team”, as well as helping landowners deal with a severe deer problem. I understand this approach has its limitations, but it seemed like a good tool.

I think you’re doing a good job of trying to deal with this. I like the opportunities for additional antlerless deer hunting outside the traditional season.

ID: 1372

Why don’t you have the double tag, any-deer/any antlerless deer tags for Day County? We had that offered to us one season and that’s it.

ID: 1374

Game, Fish and Parks should be under more control of the legislator.

ID: 1389

A tag for just one any antlerless deer.

ID: 1391

We do not need to increase the harvest of antlerless deer in many areas! This idea and theory is absolutely false and absurd! For some reason, the GF&P wants people to believe there are an overabundance of deer around, which is absolutely false! In fact, the majority of my friends and I have seen fewer deer the last 2 years. If you want to argue the fact that there are more car-deer accidents every year, use a little common sense. Every year there are more and more cars on the road as the population grows. How many thousands of people drive through our counties every year? The percentage of deer accidents to the population or number of drivers is very low! I believe in harvesting does and bucks, but I do not support the idea of lengthening the season the way it’s going! GF&P has greatly increased the number of licenses and double doe tags; and the season was long enough, which is great plenty and good enough. Don’t be greedy, the number and availability of big mature deer and does is dropping.

ID: 1394

I just want to say I had a great year deer hunting in 2003. I had many opportunities to shoot deer, but failed to fill my tags because I allowed my family to harvest the deer. My parents both turned 70 years old this year and they both filled a deer tag! My girlfriend also filled her first deer tag ever, as well. Thanks for a great year! Thanks for all the extra days allowed to hunt. We needed those days to fill the tags we did. Thanks again.

ID: 1395

I would have liked to purchase an antlerless tag after I filled my first tag, but had a difficult time figuring out if I could do that and how.

ID: 1396

For bow hunters, the rifle season interferes with the bow hunters. The “Best Week” of bow hunting you took away by moving the rifle season up. Why do people with rifle licenses need so much time to hunt. Is it because they don’t get out of pickups and walk; most are seen driving everything and don’t walk.

ID: 1398

There seems to be a lot of deer in Grant County. Give out more archery antlerless tags. I think the GF&P is doing a good job at managing the state’s deer population.

ID: 1404

Hunting for the Hunters for the Hungry Program sounds great, if I wouldn't have to pay for the processing. I would shoot antlerless for this cause, but not for my own.

ID: 1409

Why not include unfilled archery permits along with unfilled rifle tags in the extended antlerless season in January?

I'd love to hunt the late season archery deer at my father's during January, but the tags sell out in Brown County. My regular archery permit is not valid.

Also, I believe the late season antlerless tags need to be valid beyond single unit boundaries. That way more deer can be harvested where they need to be reduced, and areas without so many deer can be left alone.

ID: 1412

I typically hunt in the northeast corner of the state. This area has seen a decrease in quality buck hunting since tribal land has been opening for hunting several weeks early. Also, out-of-state hunters coming to hunt tribal land often times end up hunting non-tribal land. They have no idea of the exact boundaries of isolated pieces of land. I personally know three non-residents who shot deer on private land, thinking they were on tribal land.

ID: 1415

Overall, a very disappointing year. Not very many deer were seen (6) in southeastern Charles Mix County.

ID: 1416

I think being able to donate the meat is important, but the hunt is already expensive. Most of us can't afford to pay for processing and then give it away.

ID: 1417

I very much oppose hunting deer in January because it is too late and most people do not have the sense not to keep running and chasing them. I do not agree with raising fees for antlered deer; to a level the average family cannot afford to hunt them too. Even though I do not bow hunt, I think we need to be careful not to reduce the quality of there hunting time. I would like to see landowners that feel they have too many deer to let hunters know. I feel lowering the fees for antlerless deer will help; a stronger program to get deer meat to elderly and needy families, and quality habitat on public and walk-in lands. My freezer was full due to a buffalo I bought, but next year I will hunt more deer for meat. I shot a buck this year, first one in 3 years; usually does.

ID: 1419

Way too many people out deer hunting. Too many people out running around. Too many people hunting from boats along the river, and way too long on the regular East River rifle deer season. 16 days, then the next day antlerless deer season for 7 days, and 7 more days in January 2004; way too long. Rifle East River deer season too many days. Add one antlerless deer season in January 2005 for 7 to 10 days, shorten regular East River deer season, like it used to be. I didn't think that there was that many deer around.

ID: 1420

I think that there should be more double tags for these areas. People that receive an any-deer tag tend to pass on the does in order to harvest a buck. That is fine, but if they had a double tag they would be more likely to take a shot on a doe, knowing that they will still be able to shoot a buck. Does are easier to harvest early in the hunting season. The extended time that is given for the antlerless season is great, but I found that the does are so jumpy and wild, that it makes it hard to harvest one during those extended periods, due to the hunting pressure from early in the season.

ID: 1427

This fall I saw probably about 40 head of deer running around in the area of my farm, but I could not get permission from the landowners to hunt unless I would pay \$1,000. Two years ago, I had probably 80 to 90 head of deer in my new shelterbelt munching trees. This year I saw only about 15 head of deer in the same area that I hunted last year. Most were probably does, but were running by one-half to one-quarter mile away. I tried to hunt public ground, but I believe that it's pretty hard to do near Pierre. I think that the ideas for antlerless deer are aimed in the right direction, just that sometimes a little more research and communications should be done with landowners. Next year, I will be changing counties on account of being able to get permission on land near my home town.

ID: 1428

They were tough to get and to find because there wasn't any snow. The extra days were a plus for me because the wife and I both work and have 2 kids, and the kids always seem to have something going on somewhere on a weekend and sometimes involves parents. Extra days a plus.

ID: 1432

My personal opinion is that a big share of licenses going to landowners are for interest in buck tags. I feel the biggest share of landowners don't eat venison when they have beef. This is not always true, but my feeling and knowledge from hunting, and from talking to people is that most are interested in the horns, not meat. I myself like to hunt big bucks too, but getting a buck tag has gotten much harder. Don't think I'm complaining because I enjoy venison. Being an avid hunter for most game, I enjoy seeing wildlife and have seen some sad things when it comes to deer and deer hunters. Unfortunately, we can't change everything. Even with the number of permits issued, it appears the populations get stronger. I will probably continue to apply, as I have almost every year. Good Luck.

ID: 1433

Let the farmers and ranchers harvest them first.

ID: 1437

I've hunted Brule County the last couple years East River, and the public ground is really over-hunted the first couple weeks. You really have to work for them, but that's what I like to do. I'll walk miles and miles. Thank you.

ID: 1442

1. Decrease license fees for antlerless deer.
2. After 3rd drawing, allow unlimited, first-come, first-served tags.
3. Keep the extended season dates.
4. Keep the over-the-counter sales.

5. I currently give much of the meat to non-hunters who like venison. I would be happy to donate deer to "Hunters for the Hungry Program", if I didn't have to pay the processing.

The "working" people that take my game can cut their own meat. Why can't the "hungry"? You at GF&P are doing a great job . . . please keep at it. Thanks!

ID: 1444

In our area we would harvest more antlerless deer if a few more landowners would let us hunt. All the deer in late season hold up in one-quarter section, and I'm talking over 100 head. The landowners won't let us harvest any does, so we always have a lot of deer in our area after the winter months.

ID: 1448

I feel a good way to thin the deer populations would be to have a two-tag season in which you had to shoot a doe first. At that point, you could go to a local license dealer and pick up your buck tag. I feel that there are a large number of landowners and buck/any-deer licensees that don't ever look to shoot a deer unless it is that big buck, thereby leaving a large number of tags unfilled.

I also feel offering to drop off harvested deer to be used for the poor, homeless or food banks, without having to pay for the processing would be a great way to improve antlerless harvest.

ID: 1450

Already there are a few (overzealous) GF&P employees who are wanting to end the later antlerless deer season after just its first year due to a "couple of road hunting complaints". In fact, one GF&P person wrote, "I think we need to reevaluate the need for the extended antlerless seasons due to the road hunting complaints we got." This is a screwy, knee-jerk opinion. Let's just outlaw all hunting seasons, period! GF&P employees who hold this philosophy need to be reeducated, and pronto. You don't manage everything based on what a few slobs might do. Also, very few bucks were shot that had dropped their antlers. That is not a sufficient cause to end the later hunt. Also, do away with the need to stay in your unit during the extended seasons. Let people go where the deer are.

ID: 1453

I feel that ATV's should be allowed for game retrieval on public land. I feel that the ban on crossbows is an outdated rule and should be allowed during the archery season.

ID: 1454

In Moody County, there are too many any-deer tags and not enough doe tags. Doe tags should be cheaper, any-deer tags should be \$50 to \$100 to eliminate all road hunters and people not serious about managing the buck population and size. There are too many people shooting small bucks, just to shoot a buck. We're going to end up with the same problem the Black Hills had with having all small bucks because none have a chance to grow up. If you raise any-deer fees and cut the numbers of tags, all your meat hunters will apply for doe tags.

Landowners should be able to draw any-deer tags, and if they fill, they should still get to apply for one additional doe tag for the rifle season, to help control the doe population. In our area we need a few more muzzleloader tags and archery doe tags.

ID: 1456

I feel if GF&P want to harvest more deer by hunters that it's okay, because otherwise they get hit by cars and most of those go to waste. At least if they are hunted most of the time (should be all) they are used for meat! Thanks for caring about our hunting.

ID: 1459

I had the misfortune to be in court one afternoon while a couple of young men were being sentenced for over-shooting does. They were both hunting together with multiple tags and when they were done, they walked out to retrieve and dress their kill and found that they had one too many does. They called to report what had happened and were subsequently arrested, lost their guns, and served two-weeks jail time. I thought that was one of the most asinine examples of a bureaucracy flexing its muscle that I had ever seen. I feel that if a person over-shoots does within reason, they should be able to purchase an overkill license at a much, much higher fee; provided that they report it immediately and do not try to conceal the mistake.

ID: 1462

If the government pays a farmer or any other person for CRP Program, it should be open to the public, whether it is for waterfowl, pheasant or deer, or any other type of hunt. Thanks.

ID: 1464

I'd be very happy to harvest as many antlerless deer as would be allowed, if I had easier ways to donate the meat to people that could use it. If I have to pay for processing though, I would only harvest what I could use myself.

ID: 1465

I have been bow hunting for about 5 years now. I have not seen the numbers of deer, and it was tough. Did not see the numbers that I am use to. I hunt in Davison County, and my family (dad) owns a farm there. We have about 1,500 acres with three tree belts where I have tree stands. I love deer! Happy Hunting 2004!

ID: 1470

Running the extended antlerless season in tandem with second part of youth deer season would be a factor that would increase harvest. Have the season January 1 – 11 was difficult hunting due to deer herding up in late December. Stalking was made more difficult due to deer's seasonal roaming changes and access ability to land. Also, it would have been an additional motivation to take my child with a youth license out during the second season.

ID: 1478

I was very disappointed in the GF&P in the West River season. My boys and I had tags in Mellette County. I had heard from the ranchers that they were seeing a large die off of White-tails due to blue tongue. I called the biologist and the game warden; they both told me they had not heard of any big problems. We hunted the creek we always hunt, which is only about 4 miles and we found over 15 dead white-tails. I was totally disgusted with the department over this situation! Was it greed that you didn't tell or what? But this is part of the reason some ranchers get so pissed at you.

ID: 1479

I think if you are able to buy licenses over-the-counter that more people will be shooting any deer, instead of any antlerless deer.

ID: 1485

The only comments I have is that sometimes I feel that there is not the amount of deer in some areas. 2003 was the first year I have harvested a deer in 3 years. Don't get me wrong, it doesn't really bother me that I didn't harvest a deer, but when you hunt for 3 days and don't see one deer, you can see how a person can get a little frustrated. Other than that, I was very happy with my deer hunting experiences in East River. If you have any other questionnaires, please feel free to send me one. Thank you.

ID: 1486

Give out more antlerless licenses and go away with the two extra seasons. Give out less any-deer tags in some counties and more in others. I think who ever sends a license in should get one.

ID: 1493

Cheaper; and allow more antlerless licenses. Donate to Hunters for the Hungry Program without having to pay for processing.

ID: 1494

If a count was done after the one-week extension after the regular season and additional lower fee licenses were given in areas of overpopulation's; it seems that farmers and ranchers are more open to allow hunters on their land during the January 1 – January 11 season. If deer are bunched up and they are faced with possible depredation during the remainder of the season.

ID: 1497

Have the tribal season the same as the state season. This starting a month ahead and continuing to the end of the year is ridiculous. We all live in South Dakota and should be treated the same and all abide by state regulations, not special treatment for some.

ID: 1498

I would like to have a chance at a buck if one is possible, but I also hunt for meat for my family. I'm not opposed to shooting antlerless deer as long as I have at least one license for a buck without spending a lot of money to get the. My son and daughter also hunt.

ID: 1500

I believe that the extended seasons should run back to back to back. The late season in January is made more difficult because the deer are starting to bunch up and can be found bunched up in only certain areas. I think the season should not extend past December 31st. Perhaps, continuous "30-day" season for those areas that need deer reduction (or a "45 day" season).

Examples: East River deer – Deuel County (rifle)

November 15th to December 31st (45 days); or

November 15th to December 15th (30 days)

Many people can only hunt during their regular days off from work, and many travel great distances to do so. The extended seasons provide more opportunities to harvest deer, but again, I feel the seasons should be continuous, to make it easier to plan your hunt

and schedule time off from work. Also, having the season through the holidays (just like pheasant season) allows families to hunt together.

ID: 1504

All deer seasons should be open September to January 31st. Needs to be more public land to hunt, and you should get rid of the Special Buck tags. That is what kind of tags for deer that makes my tags go up every year.

ID: 1506

I feel that the regular season is too long. I would like to see a 9-day any-deer and then maybe add on another week where you could fill any tag you had left. We have as good a big buck area that I have seen in 30 years of hunting, with many bucks 140 and better, but the rut is going and 2 weeks of hunting is really taking its toll on the big ones. I got my does, but a lot of guys didn't shoot does because they just got tired of hunting. I didn't even carry a gun the first season because my son had an any-deer tag and didn't shoot his buck until the last day. I just had antlerless tags and used all the extra time to shoot them, but I wouldn't have needed the extra time.

ID: 1508

I believe in time, pay hunting will destroy hunting in South Dakota and needs to be looked at immediately.

ID: 1510

Have the muzzleloader season before rifle season. The does are pretty wild after rifle season. Drop the price for does a little more.

ID: 1511

There were a number of area residents who did not receive a tag in 2003. There were a number of area residents who received double tags. I don't think that is very fair. I would like to see a process in which more people have an opportunity to hunt, instead of some people receiving two tags.

ID: 1513

If a landowner complains about too many deer eating his hay, etc., and asks for a depredation hunt, find out if he or she turned anybody down when they asked for their permission to hunt. If they did, don't give them a depredation hunt. I know of a couple landowners that would not allow anyone to hunt deer, only to find out later that they had the state bring in depredation hunters. This is wrong! Ask their neighbors before granting depredation hunts. I say if they won't let people hunt, let the deer eat all their damn hay!

ID: 1515

Let muzzleloaders use scopes for more accurate shooting. It would save a lot of wounded deer.

ID: 1517

When giving out double licenses, make it mandatory to shoot the doe first. Maybe also just give the doe tag and have them take the doe into the game warden and he issues the buck tag. Also, give the county residents first chance at the local licenses, instead of out-of-county people. The late season hunt wasn't good. Deer were very wild yet; plus everyone was out of the mood to hunt at that time.

ID: 1518

I feel the extended deer season in January helps very much, and I would like to see it continue. It helped my effort greatly; plus you don't have to miss other types of hunting in the fall.

ID: 1521

The January 1 – 11 season was a good idea, but by then the deer were bunched and on land the owners don't like people to hunt. Usually, because they are getting paid for hunting.

ID: 1522

As a landowner, I get a lot of people wanting to hunt. I always ask what they are looking for. 9 out of 10 say a buck. If that is what they tell me, I won't give permission. In my own feelings, I think the buck tags should not be sold for a couple of years. There just are not enough trophy deer anymore. Then you will see who really hunts for meat!

ID: 1523

I had medical problems and was not going to hunt at all this year. One of the people I work with had too many deer on his land and wanted some of them removed. When the season arrived, the majority of the deer had moved to other land around his property. I did not pursue hunting rights to the surrounding lands and hunted public lands with no success. I saw a lot of deer during the season; I hunted Clark County.

I believe the state is on the right track by allowing hunters to harvest more antlerless deer by reduced fees and more permits per hunter. People need to realize that they can't hunt just for big bucks when there is an abundance of antlerless deer. They need to recognize the importance of reducing numbers and that it is not unethical to shoot does and fawns.

ID: 1525

Longer season is important.

ID: 1532

People are shooting bucks that are too little. That is the reason there isn't any nice deer around in Minnehaha County. In the western counties there is bigger bucks because people don't shoot little bucks.

All town people should be issued doe tags. Buck tags should be issued to the landowners because we are the one's that feed and supply areas for deer to live. A lot of people forget that farmers are important.

ID: 1533

I feel there are too many does and that they are producing too many fawns. Deer are awfully hard on cars, haystacks, fences, gardens, and it seems their population keeps growing in spite of additional tags issued. Let's do it (hunt deer) for free once and see what happens.

Hire more wardens like _____ to crush the vermin poachers in South Dakota. _____ of Selby, SD, found evidence of three, illegal poaching in his corn fields before the season started.

ID: 1538

I think one thing you can do is not give out landowner tags separately. Make it a fair deal for everyone, once the landowners got the tags, most people I've talked to don't let anybody on that season even after they shoot one or two.

I was out hunting this year trying to get my girlfriend her first deer. I found a beautiful area to hunt. I went and knocked on the door and couldn't help to see 3 deerskins hanging on the dog cage. The fellow came to the door and I chatted for a little while and asked him if I could hunt just for one doe, and the guy told me that he had shot a deer out of there already and that he didn't want anybody else in there. I respect that no doubt about it, but when I pulled out there was twelve does out there in the field. In the end, I hunted around that area a lot, these deer did not come on that property. So, my point being every year he gets a landowner tag and every year when hunting season comes those deer go straight to his property, and that's just one spot by Tea, SD; that happens all over. By all mean, I'm not talking down on that fellow, but when the Game, Fish and Parks have a big deal like last year about antlerless deer, he should be helping at least give people in the area a chance. Thank you.

ID: 1542

I might be interested in muzzleloader more if the season was sooner. Put out a few buck tags for each county.

ID: 1544

If a farmer/rancher is having a problem with deer depredation, an easier way of letting hunters know about it would be good.

ID: 1545

The new laws are great, they really have helped.

ID: 1547

West River deer (white-tail) were non-existent. We killed all the deer that we saw. We saw a lot more deer both East and West, but they were on property that we were not allowed to hunt on.

ID: 1550

Reduce antlerless fees even more (\$5 to \$10). Allow up to 5 antlerless archery tags.

ID: 1554

I enjoyed my deer hunting this year. I'm very thankful you (GF&P) give tags to hunt. I don't own a farm or ranch, but I work for one, and I get to see a lot of the big deer. It is very exciting for me. Thanks.

ID: 1568

It's hard for me to answer some of the questions because I have a wife and a 14 year old son who both like to hunt. Some days hunting were to fill them. I myself would shoot more deer, but if I get their tags filled I usually have plenty of meat. Also, we all hunt together, so it's hard for our family to buy extra tags with the price (not complaining about the price). We had 9 tags in this household and filled 7 of them; we like to buy double tags. I wish for family or groups that double tags could be reduced. Overall, hunting and everything else is great. Keep up the good work, GF&P.

ID: 1570

I think lowering the price of antlerless tags would help greatly.

ID: 1571

Need to make it known that there are leftover tags. On the other hand, I really enjoyed my hunt this year. I was also glad to see GF&P checking tags and having checkpoints.

ID: 1577

I live in Center Townships in Aurora County. In the 2002 deer season, I bet I seen twice as many deer as I did the 2003 season. I don't know if they were in bunches somewhere else, or if the population was down. In our area the number of hunters around was a little scary. I sat for the first two days of the season and the amount of rifle fire in a close area made me a little nervous. I think there was more than enough licenses issued for Aurora County in 2003.

ID: 1587

I have been putting in for deer licenses for several years and only get antlerless tags. It would be nice to get one any-deer tag and one any antlerless deer; that way if you do see a respectable buck, you can shoot it. I have had preference points for several years, but continue to get antlerless tags. I enjoy any-deer hunting, but it is frustrating if that buck comes around.

ID: 1589

I had a lot of difficulty trying to obtain a leftover license from agents. Most of them had no idea about the program or any idea what the process was. Most said that you had to still go to Pierre.

ID: 1591

I live in Codington County. I'm not sure that we have the deer herd that there are tags allowed for in this county. How does the GF&P complete there deer survey? Thanks.

ID: 1593

People driving around on the road, stop and wait for you to chase deer to them, or neighbor is driving around in CRP and not getting out to walk; driving on land they did not have permission to go on when you are the only one to be on there.

ID: 1597

For me, besides time, land availability is probably the biggest issue. I think the extended season is great when there is a need for a larger harvest. If my schedule had allowed, I would have filled at least one more tag.

ID: 1610

In our area we have a couple of people who seem to like to keep deer on their ground. I suppose it's to raise big bucks for themselves; one of them is my relation, so I know that's why he does it. His cousin lets people hunt deer on this ground, right around the one who likes to corral them, so the one who doesn't let people hunt follows us around and pretty much harasses us. He is also a friend with the conservation officers in this area, so I suppose he can get away with it.

I wish the state could put a stop to people like him. After a couple of days of hunting, the deer end up on his ground and make it hard for everyone to find any deer. So to me, this is the biggest problem for deer hunting.

ID: 1613

If the Game, Fish and Parks are so worried about reducing the number of antlerless deer, why don't they have something like an "antlerless deer reduction day" and donate the meat to the needy? Then the GF&P could provide more "any-deer" licenses or get the "buck only" tag back, because there were a lot of disappointed hunters who received "any antlerless" tags.

ID: 1620

Make the muzzleloader season before East River rifle season and allow us to shoot a buck with a muzzleloader tag.

ID: 1621

I enjoy deer hunting, but it is like pheasant hunting; it's commercialized (pay-to-hunt . . . business). With the CWD and other illnesses, the deer population has greatly decreased in our area. I do eat deer meat and will shoot a doe on the last day. I hunt for bigger bucks because I have shot bucks from a small 4x4 to a 6x7. If I don't have the opportunity at a larger buck, I leave the smaller bucks alone to mature for the next year or years. I will shoot antlerless deer on the final day if not otherwise successful.

ID: 1624

I saw a large increase in the number of any-deer tags this past year, it seemed. It seems to me that a person with an any-deer tag is going to spend his or her time trying to shoot a good buck, rather than filling his or her tag with a doe. On the other hand, if that same person had only a doe tag, they would more than likely fill it. If more double and triple antlerless tags were allowed; at a price close to that of an any-deer tag, then people would buy them and fill them to put meat on the table. This is only my thought and this could be totally wrong.

With the acres that my family farm operates, we feed a lot of deer involuntary. It does not bother my brother, father or myself. We really enjoy watching the deer, observing their habitats and trying to outwit them in the field. We will continue to hunt these wonderful creatures, in hopes that one day we will become wise enough to predict their patterns.

ID: 1627

I think that there is too many safe zones for the deer, which means too many landowners don't let people hunt on their land. The land that doesn't get hunted gets overpopulated with deer and then they carry diseases.

ID: 1634

Increase the number of antlerless tags. Start a week or so early with just antlerless tags for anybody.

ID: 1636

Keep people from the city, there.

ID: 1642

Please give out more buck tags!

ID: 1646

I sure wish there were more areas to hunt. So many landowners are starting pay hunting, and the prices they charge are set up for only the wealthy. My belief is that

nature's game should not have a price. That's almost like saying all the deer that's on my land are mine and if you want to harvest one, pay me X amount. Seems to me the farmers in this area do very well for themselves without supplementing their income. Maybe there should be some kind of game tax that should be implemented on farmers who want only pay hunters, and the money could be used to purchase more land for common folk to hunt. Also, I would like to see a size limit put on bucks, say nothing less than 4-pointers. This would allow more bucks to grow to trophy size. Seems like a lot of my friends will shoot a small buck just to fill their any-deer tag. Dumb!

ID: 1652

Two antlerless tags in East River would be good.

ID: 1660

In areas where we have problems, start using your heads. Landowners are not GF&P enemies! Work with them, not against. Maybe it is time for the whole GF&P to be looked into – top to bottom.

Cooper should go! He allows special interest groups to control him. In places that we need to kill deer, go one year with no buck tags to let them grow, so we can get good deer back.

ID: 1675

Thank you for letting kids like me, at a young age, hunt deer and harvest deer. It was a blast and I hope to hunt more and more every year.

ID: 1686

Some years there are too many deer, and it varies from year to year. Some deer are desirable, and I usually provide cover for them. However, too many become a burden on a farmer's resources. I have no problem with Game, Fish and Parks controlling the does in abundant years. It is better for the hunters to do it then the farmer.

I never turn down a hunter, except close to my residence. Even then some shoot within 200 feet of my home. I usually let this go, as I cannot afford hard feelings, especially with people who have guns.

ID: 1690

Start the season one week earlier.

ID: 1695

Any farmer/rancher who charges a fee for the pheasant hunting season should allow "antlerless" deer hunting for the extended deer season. This would be in/on any CRP, or in/on any uncut corn fields; free of charge, as part of their commercial (pheasant hunting) licensing.

This licensing requirement would only allow the "antlerless" deer hunters to enter said CRP or/and corn fields (on foot) as required with all Walk-In Areas and SD GF&P leased/owned lands within the State of South Dakota.

Within the counties of Lawrence, Custer and Pennington, described commonly as the Black Hills of South Dakota . . . "antlerless" deer tags should be sold over-the-counter . . . up to a minimum of (2), for the entire month of November. All said licenses must be for the same county; with GF&P to determine the given/stated total number of depredation

(kill) goals (per county) to maintain an adequate deer population within a given county/area.

An early, “traditional” style (flintlock or caplock) only muzzleloader season, for the first 2 weeks of October (prior to pheasant season) would give the limited range weapons an advantage. Deer are very “aware”/“spooky” after regular rifle season!

ID: 1696

Extended season provide too long a time for deer to be harvested. An extended season should be flexible and be established where deer are excessive; causing considerable auto accidents or livestock feed degradation.

ID: 1699

Limit the total number of buck licenses to include rifle, handgun, archery and muzzleloader.

ID: 1700

Ask farmers and ranchers who feel they have too many deer to invite hunters to hunt on their property, maybe under their supervision.

ID: 1705

I give all my deer meat away. I would like to see East River antlerless tags good for any where East River. I won't drive 100 to 200 miles to shoot a doe. I would like to see cheaper antlerless tags, as I give them away. Thanks.

ID: 1706

The established season, fees, etc. were very good. It is very hard to find the deer after the second week of hunting. It seems like they just vanish. Could not find any does; lots of sign, but no deer. Have to establish more places to hunt I guess.

ID: 1711

I would like to see the muzzleloader license changed so that a person could shoot a buck also. I hunt on the Indian reservation with a muzzleloader because I can shoot a buck if I so choose. I also don't like the rule that prohibits telescopic sights. I feel that having the muzzleloader season after the regular rifle season when the deer are much spookier and prohibiting scoped sights leads to many wounded animals, which either suffer longer or in some cases escape recovery only to die later.

There are a lot of hunters who try unethical long range shots with the muzzleloader and iron sights. Scoped guns would make it much easier to make clean, quick and efficient kills with far less wounded animals.

ID: 1714

Deer hunting for the Indians should be the same time for all people.

ID: 1717

I enjoy hunting with muzzleloaders, most states allow muzzleloader-only hunts for bucks (and does) prior to the regular rifle seasons. Why does South Dakota only allow doe-only; after all other seasons are done, for muzzleloader deer hunting.

Please consider an early muzzleloader season, allow buck hunting and limit the season to traditional muzzleloaders (no scopes, no in-lines).

ID: 1718

I would consider commenting on this issue further; to a non-game official that would listen without comment about deer depredation, but yet leasing the land and the CWD where people are filling landfills with deer on the word of some game biologist, etc., and many other issues.

P.S. – I have two youth hunters in my family; there is no need to send them a survey.

ID: 1722

- Areas, which have an overpopulation of deer should have a depredation season.
- Extend the muzzleloader season to February 15th. Warm weather and no snow can effect the ability to harvest deer.
- Allow more time (30 days after season), January 1st through January 30th, to harvest antlers deer using unfilled tags.
- Also, keep up your efforts – good work.

ID: 1723

Thanks to the GF&P for making the changes in 2003 to increase the harvest of antlerless deer, especially by reducing the antlerless fees and extending the season for 11 days in January. More pheasant habitat and mild winters allow the East River deer population to continue to increase and depredation will be more of a problem in the future. Harvesting of more East River antlerless deer is necessary to limit the increase in deer and to reduce depredation.

A problem that prevents more antlerless tags sold and deer harvested is the high cost (over \$100) to process a deer. Also, many families now days get tired of the wild taste. Fast food is more popular.

Some suggestions would be to:

- Continue the changes made in 2003.
- Since some hunters will only shoot bucks, charge more for buck/any-deer licenses and use the extra funds to subsidize the process of antlerless deer to be donated to the families in need.
- Hire Tony Dean to champion the cause and challenge of harvesting an educated doe.
- Try an earlier muzzleloader/handgun season for antlerless deer during milder weather, before the deer have been harassed by “pickup hunters” in the fields and on the roads.
- Encourage more out-of-state hunters to hunt antlerless deer in South Dakota.
- Educate the young hunters to be true sportsmen and that the ethical hunting of a beautiful animal, including a doe, is more enjoyable.

ID: 1728

The farmers think that if they feed the deer and pheasants with their crops, they then think they own them.

ID: 1734

Late season hunting is usually hindered by snow. You could allow road hunting during the late season hunt. It would make them much easier to get. I don't see the problem as long as you have permission from the landowner.

Offer free tags for the Hunters for the Hungry Program. You must turn over a harvested Deer or return the tag. Make the season January 15th through February 28th. This would give you ample time to determine where the problem areas are. Allow road hunting by permission only. This is a slow time of the year and you will be successful.

By the way, I don't believe in road hunting, but it may be necessary during the late season.

ID: 1736

I hunt with muzzleloader and outside of refuges we are only allowed antlerless deer licenses only. Why is it then that we have to wait until all of the rifle seasons are done and most of the archery season is done. If you need to get more antlerless deer harvested, maybe you would get more muzzleloaders to hunt during the warmer part of the season and rut.

ID: 1740

\$5 per licensee would help.

ID: 1742

Furnish a list of landowners that would allow hunters on their land free or a price they would charge. Even if is for after they have harvested the deer they want.

ID: 1744

- Great job on the Walk-In Area availability!
- Great job with on-line license applications!
- Great job with youth early and resident early hunting seasons!

For the most part, you guys are doing a great job handling the wildlife, hunters and landowners in the state. Keep up the good work. A very satisfied sportsman.

ID: 1750

I strongly opposed the extended rifle seasons for antlerless deer. We had youth license, archery and muzzleloader. We usually look forward to the skill required with these other weapons and they require getting close. Tough to do when you let the rifles at them again.

You may want to consider changing the northern counties back to one week. Maybe have it start a week earlier. People would shoot more antlerless deer on a shorter season.

ID: 1751

Even though I participated in the January rifle season this year, I don't completely agree with it. Normally, I hunt with the muzzleloader during that time. This year with the additional pressure from the extended rifle seasons, the deer remained extremely nervous and spooky. It would have been extremely tough to get quality shots at them with a short range weapon. I realize if we had more "winter" weather this would have been different.

ID: 1757

We have several area landowners that have CRP. These landowners all feel that they should be paid to hunt their land. So once the season opens the deer all move into these refuges and never appear until after the season is over.

ID: 1761

There were not many hunters out the last season. Making it harder to find deer on land that you had permission to hunt. The deer would stay where they were and could not be forced out.

ID: 1765

As the season was extended ; myself as a landowner, I had to guard my place longer than usual. If I do not watch over my land, people knock down my fences, hunt in the same pasture as the cattle, don't pay any attention to the "No Hunting" signs, throw beer bottles on the road and ditch, empty their ash trays on the road, throw their garbage out the window of their car, and shoot onto my land from the road.

The extended season just causes me more work and more hours on the road guarding my place. Where is the game warden? I dislike the extended season with a passion!

ID: 1766

Being able to shoot off the road onto your own land or land that you have permission to hunt.

ID: 1770

I hunt because I like the meat to eat. This is why I hunt does. Thank you.

P.S. – My son and husband like to hunt bucks!

ID: 1773

We need two weeks for the regular season for hunting.

ID: 1783

I feel CRP should be public hunting grounds. Land payments are made by the taxpayers. Taxpayers should be able to use CRP.

ID: 1785

We do not need a longer season. There is plenty of deer for 9 days of hunting all kinds, and does.

ID: 1787

Aurora County (Crystal Lake Township) has too many does and fawns! They eat too much hay and corn. They ruin trees in shelterbelts and are road hazards, as you can run into them while traveling on the roads.

ID: 1792

As you see from my answers to the questionnaire, I checked very dissatisfied on overall experience of the hunt and used the hunt extension of January 1 – January 11.

I could hunt only Sunday of the first weekend of the season. There were so many 2-tag (meat hunters) shooting everything that moved (if it's brown it's down), so much shooting going on. I did not feel safe and just quit hunting. I witnessed trespassing, pickup hunting, poor sportsmanship, shooting from roads and besides feeling unsafe, I was embarrassed to be a part of hunting that weekend. I waited until all those slob hunters were done and then I went and had my hunt.

I believe we need to reduce the population of deer. I hit a deer on the road with my pickup less than 2 miles from home, doing \$1,400 in damage.

I would rather see a lot of hunters over 3 or 4 or 5 separate seasons, than having everybody and their grandmother running and gunning all at once. My first days hunt was so bad I was literally run off my own land!

ID: 1793

Although I know there are plenty of people that hunt more often than I do, I still get around quite a lot and I'm fairly capable of seeing deer; having archery hunted for years. If there are areas in Codington or Clark Counties that have an abundance of deer that need additional harvest, I've not seen them. You'd have to tell me where they are. North Clark specifically, has gone from a great hunting opportunity 15 years or so ago to a steady decline in numbers and certainly quality deer in any number. In my unprofessional opinion, the thought of an overabundance of animals in north Clark County is absurd. By the way, I do get out of my truck and walk by responsibility and preference. I also teach my son to do the same. Anyone that spends the entire season rifle hunting and doesn't leave his vehicle should absolutely not be rewarded with a license for the next season. Probably an impossible idea, but wouldn't it be great for the sport. Don't get me wrong by my strong opinions. I respect the GF&P officers and I'm very grateful for the privilege to hunt and share it in South Dakota with my son.

ID: 1800

Why can't muzzleloader hunters shoot a buck during that season?

Why can't muzzleloader hunters hunt before the normal season, like archery?

McCook County has many deer and many hunters. We would encourage the GF&P to give out more double tags.

ID: 1802

Let archery hunters apply for more antlerless tags if they fill early and have use for another deer.

I would suggest the same for rifle hunters, except that a large percentage of rifle hunters are actually pickup chasing deer shooters.

I have this attitude from my experience with hunters in Edmunds County. I have had trespassing charges filed, as well as chasing deer and open container. I have been working with the conservation officers from Edmunds and Brown Counties, and they are doing a great job! We need more of those guys.

ID: 1803

I would have purchased an extra tag for an additional fee with my initial tag. I think that in the area I hunted, no additional tags were available. I like double tags (any-deer and antlerless). I prefer the season starting the weekend before Thanksgiving (Day County).

ID: 1807

Finding landowners that will allow a person to hunt on private land becomes more and more hard to come by. There are less and less Walk-In Areas for hunters to have access too. Perhaps GF&P can offer some kind of compensation to landowners to let hunters on

their land, for example (CRP). Lowering even more on fees on antlerless will get more people to harvest does.

ID: 1810

I would like to see a license type that would allow trophy hunters to be only able to harvest a buck that has at least 4-points per side. I think this would eliminate the hunters who take a small buck on the last day of the season. Make the Special Buck license into this type, maybe?

ID: 1818

1. Leave all leftover tags at courthouse in Marshall County. Many people don't have the ability or know-how to go on-line and get them, or don't hear about leftovers until it's too late; deadlines have already passed.
2. Don't be so strict on off-road driving. Many people are not going to walk and push antlerless deer due to age of the hunter or the ability to get around. I know plenty of hunters ("older" generation) that told me they would be more interested in harvesting antlerless deer if laws would let them hunt a little more from a vehicle.
3. Let archery hunters (or rifle) apply for as many antlerless tags as they want if they are a landowners. I don't understand why we should have to pay full price for tags when we are the one's who feed the herd year-round. I believe if cost of the tags were cheaper and you wanted to harvest as many antlerless deer as you could; say 10 per landowner, we wouldn't have the problem we do!
4. On February 26, 2004, my daughter and I drove around one-half hour before dark. We drove about 6 square miles in and around Sisseton Township and we counted 217 head of deer. Close to one-half of the deer ended up on our land and the neighbors next to us when the corn gets tall enough to hide in. I would be nice to harvest more numbers of them at a reduced price.

ID: 1823

If GF&P is truly wanting a better relationship with farmers and landowners who provide habitat and food for deer throughout the year; and would like more land opened up for hunting, I suggest giving a free tag to any landowner to be used by him or who he chooses it to go to, to reduce the population. I have heard other states doing this and think the attitude that I and other friends I have talked with would change toward GF&P. The money for licenses is not an issue for me, but I feel if something like this was done, it would show me that GF&P was truly wanting to build relations with farmers and landowners, and not just grabbing license money to buy land and taking it out of production.

ID: 1826

If there were programs to show the big buck hunters that following a QDM Program by reducing the doe to buck numbers; and not taking small bucks, but taking does, it would increase their chance of getting the deer of their dreams. Maybe this would help get the number of deer down.

I would like to see some help for people like me who put out food plots on private land (even when it is not mine) when right next door is public land where people wait to shoot the deer that I have paid to feed. When more times than not, they shoot anything with horns on it, leaving me to deal with the doe population.

ID: 1828

I have hunted muzzleloader season many years in other states. They treat this season as a special primitive season. South Dakota does not; it is a joke. Tell me what kills more deer, a rifle or a muzzleloader. Let the rifle hunters take the antlerless. Outlaw in-line muzzleloaders and put muzzleloader season before rifle. Let us shoot bucks with muzzleloaders. I have visited with many conservation officers about this. I think you have brainwashed them about this subject.

I feel very strongly about this subject and do believe in herd reduction. However, use your head. Most important – NO in-line muzzleloaders during muzzleloader season.

ID: 1829

I own land and there is 80 acres of creek on woods, but I don't farm it or live on it, so I can't do landowner option; and to get a buck license in Grant County is almost hopeless. If you can help me with this, please call me. The places I go hunting are a price of heaven. Thanks.

ID: 1832

The number of deer that I saw in Perkins and Sully Counties shocked me. Deer numbers were way down and I did not feel it would be ethical to harvest does with so few deer around.

I would be very happy to see a program that assumed the cost of processing for donation to the poor. I can usually give away a deer every year when I pay the processing, but I'm unable to do more financially.

Emphasizing the fact that doe harvest increases quality of bucks would go further than telling people that you are reducing numbers to fight depredation. Make it okay to shoot does.

ID: 1833

Give buck hunters in the southeast one more month of hunting, like the Black Hills deer season. 9 days is not enough time for buck hunters. Maybe all of December, and the doe the same. Maybe 15 days of the New Year.

ID: 1838

I can understand and agree with the problems that the expanding deer herd has.

I will occasionally apply for East River tags if friends do as well, but the East River season is a joke with the Iron Pony Show, bullets flying everywhere, landowners protecting every piece of land they own for themselves and just the all around circus it has become.

I much rather prefer archery hunting by myself on my own terms, but every year I loose more and more land that I have hunted for years to the Johnny-Come Lately into the sport. I also am beginning to see archery hunting rights being leased. This is the last kind of hunting I still do, but I'm afraid this to will be something I will be forced out of. Frustrated.

ID: 1842

In Grant County we have a lot of deer. The double tags; I would like to see one any-deer/antlerless and two any antlerless. The single tag should not exist until the deer population is down. Maybe 400 any-deer, plus one antlerless with 250 to 300 two-tag antlerless.

ID: 1844

We (party of 4) had many opportunities to fill our antlerless tags in Bon Homme and Spink Counties. However, the best cover in the area was posted "No Hunting". Oh well, we still had a great experience and look forward to next year!

By the way, you guys are doing a great job. Thanks for everything!

ID: 1846

I realize this year I harvested (2) buck deer. I want you to take into consideration that my wife and son hunt also. We normally rely on three deer per year, and I would have been very happy shooting does if we didn't have enough deer in the freezer. Have you ever considered one year, doe only? My family normally has six to seven licenses and harvest three to four deer.

ID: 1849

I feel that the late rifle deer season makes it harder to archery hunt!

ID: 1853

- Lease farmland for the short hunting season where you are having population problems.
- Open an early season in problem areas.

ID: 1860

Muzzleloader licenses (at least some) should be any-deer. A muzzleloader is not a reduction weapon. It would be nice to at least have a chance to kill a buck if the opportunity arises.

ID: 1861

Due to the weather, the second day of East River deer season was a blizzard. I was only able to take two days for hunting.

ID: 1862

I hunt just about every year. Most of the time I shoot antlerless deer. This is even if I could shoot a buck with an any-deer tag. I think the does and young antlerless bucks are pretty good to eat; bigger does don't always eat as good. As far as the antlers go, you can't eat them, and I have no interest in hanging them on a wall.

The extra time is very good because a lot of people have to hunt on their days off, and it's hard to find time. Also, it's good to have extra time because of some days of bad weather.

The funny thing about this last year, we seen more big bucks than we seen in years, and everything was so hard to get close to; to get a shot!

ID: 1867

I love to archery hunt; give me more time in the field to myself and I'll harvest deer with all the other hunting seasons being added, especially in the beginning of the season. When more and more people are out and about, maybe an earlier start date would help.

Reduce the fees for antlerless deer a little more.

I think the Hunters for the Hungry Program is great, but I can't always afford the processing for the extra deer. Find a way to help with this and I would buy the extra tags (on top of what I already buy) to go towards this program. Thanks.

ID: 1869

Hunting doe is fine with me because I do it every year with a muzzleloader, but for East River deer, I would prefer to have an any-deer license.

ID: 1870

Brookings County has too many college students who can hunt deer, which hinders how all the normal people have to hunt. They don't know or obey the rules. They do what and when they want to. There are days that I have more college students under my tree than deer. I hunt only 9 miles from Brookings. Brookings is also the worst county to draw a tag due to all the college students. People with landowner tags need to be checked up on also, the whole family or only one person per family. I know people who rent land only to get landowner tags. This does not sit well with me, and lots of other people have a survey about both topics; see what happens. We also need to split the seasons to help take some of the pressure away. Running deer are hard to shoot, and there are way too many people.

Another thing is hunting deer in public or Walk-In Areas, when all day you have pheasants hunters walk around you. How can you get close to deer with two different types of hunters in the same field; just does not work well! As me, I know. I know you can't stop pheasant hunters, but last year I could not shoot 4 different deer due to other people in the wrong place; no fun. Walk-In Areas get way too much pressure from all type of hunters, same as public, what can be done when you have no private land to hunt. Please help with all these concerns!

ID: 1871

Landowners should be allowed one free doe tag per year.

ID: 1874

Somewhat disappointed with the number of antlerless tags in Marshall County and the lack of antlerless deer to take.

ID: 1877

- I would be nice if GF&P would offer reduced rates for archery antlerless deer tags, or have a license option for two tags; one any-deer and one any antlerless for archery.
- Tooth envelopes for archery license to determine harvests.

ID: 1882

I am tired of the bad hunters going through fences and on our property without permission. I don't have the time to be out patrolling and find out who it is. I also know GF&P does not have enough people to watch all the area either. I am a farmer that

feeds and harbors game areas; it would be a nice gesture to us to get a free Sportsman's License.

ID: 1884

Question No. 9 – I strongly feel that this would be a very good idea. There are way too many deer in this area and I feel they should be reduced. Why not feed the hungry. I would buy a tag every year just for the hungry; as long as processing fees were taken care of. Reduce the prices of the tags and take care of the processing fees, and I think a lot of people would support the hungry. Plus it would be a great way to bring down the population of deer.

ID: 1886

I feel that the price is getting too high for me to continue hunting deer and anything else for that matter. I like to hunt game of all kinds, but with the price of gas, shells and the price of a license, it is not worth it anymore. I have hunted since I was a little kid, and would like to pass on the legacy to my kids. I have already cut out Black Hills deer and goose hunting because of the cost. Let's work on the price of the licensing and see if that doesn't help with the deer population. I think that if I could buy a license for \$10 or \$15, straight across the board, I would be more apt to buy more. I figured this year that my deer would cost me \$1 per lb. to cut it up and process it myself. I can buy hamburger for less than that and not have to do anything but cook it.

ID: 1895

Landowner List – It was hard to find a place to harvest my last two tags (deer) with the late season dates. Most deer were very spooky. If they run into a strict "no hunting" property it makes it hard to fill your tags. Seen lots of deer in January in Clark County, but was not allowed many shots. So, I never did fill my "two deer" tags in Clark County. So maybe, a landowner list for late season hunters? Thanks.

ID: 1901

Give your landowners a free deer tag at no charge.

ID: 1903

We need a cased gun law to finally stop the truck hunters (for big game only!

ID: 1908

I would like to see more two-tag licenses issued for East River deer. I also feel that landowner operators should be eligible for extra licenses because we help provide a lot of extra habitat. Also, the deer can cause a lot of damages to standing crops.

ID: 1910

I gave this a lot of thought. I originally thought an early season would be a wise choice to shoot does for adults, in addition to the current youth season. After thinking about that, I changed my mind because I'm an avid bow hunter. I like to shoot does with my bow. This would give less of an opportunity if many of these does were already dead. I could see a lot of bow hunters very upset. I wouldn't be very upset, but it would be disappointing. I think that this past season was the best option with late hunts. The only upsetting part was that the extended rifle hunting made muzzleloader hunting a lot more difficult. The deer never really settled down like they usually do. I also worry that the stress could be hard on the herd.

I like to shoot deer and I like to eat deer. I usually get 7 to 9 tags. I like to harvest 4 deer to eat. I'm very fussy with the buck tags. If I'm lucky enough to harvest a trophy, I just shoot one less doe for the year! I try to fill my antlerless archery tags and muzzleloader tags first, and fill the rifle doe tags only if necessary to hit my 4 to 5 deer quota. If I could give the meat to the "Hunters for the Hungry Program" at no charge, I would usually be able to fill any tag that would have been issued, and would gladly do that. But I process my own deer, and it would be to spendy to pay for processing these does to give away. I didn't fill 3 tags this year, and I chose not to fill the 2 West River tags. I just couldn't get that 3rd tag (muzzleloader deer) filled.

ID: 1932

A longer season for antlerless deer harvest would be more sufficient.

ID: 1941

I find that it is very difficult to find a place to hunt while the buck season is on. In our area there are a lot of hunters that will only take exceptional bucks. These hunters are usually landowners who won't allow others to hunt their land and they hunt lands other than theirs first, in hopes of pushing deer onto their land. I realize that their land is theirs to do what they will, but I feel it is wrong for them to attempt to push deer to areas where non-landowner hunters can't get a chance to harvest a deer.

ID: 1944

Just in Yankton County alone, there should be without a doubt, more antlerless tags available due to the lake area and the amount of deer in this county. I think a little bit better count should be done to see how many deer actually are in the county. Thanks.

ID: 1947

I would take all antlerless, but the double doe tags run out quickly, and I won't pay the same price for one doe as two. I hunt in Day County exclusively, as my family owns 1,000 acres there. If you want does taken then change your antlerless tag to a double, so that all tags are either one any-deer or two antlerless.

I am just saying that if I could get a couple of double doe tags I would gladly fill them, and in Day County that would be easy to do.

Thanks for the questionnaire. Hope this is helpful.

ID: 1949

I serve in the military and the only reason that I was able to hunt this year is because of the extended deer season after the regular season (during my leave). So, I was very thankful that the extended season was in place and that I was able to just go to the local GF&P and pick-up the license. The previous year I was going to muzzleloader hunt, but didn't because I would have to go to Pierre and get the license.

The donated deer program is also a good idea, but it doesn't even pay to process our own meat; much less stuff we will donate. If we had had the option of donating our second deer, we would have probably used my second tag, even if we had to process it ourselves, and we would have been glad to do that.

Overall, I think you all made some excellent improvements last year. Keep up the good work.

ID: 1950

Don't even think about making archery tags antlerless only; bow hunting is a challenge and a skill of shooting mature bucks on a one-on-one basis. A lot of hunters I know, including myself, would ban all deer hunting if we wouldn't have the opportunity to archery hunt any deer (bucks).

If you sold a certain amount of buck/doe tags, your interest in blackpowder would increase a lot. Who is willing to freeze their butts off to shoot another doe that they don't need? Give the opportunity to shoot a buck will put more people in the woods, and if they have an antlerless tag also, they may shoot more does.

ID: 1958

These comments are about East River hunters. Each year I am seeing more and more disregard for landowners' rights. It seems we have fences cut and gates left open every year. If the hunters would just stop and ask we would gladly let them go hunting, if my family and I are done hunting.

ID: 1962

My dad is a small farmer in Lake County. On his farm, his main goal is for the wildlife. We spend countless hours planting trees and wildlife plots.

Since high school graduation for me, getting an any-deer tag is nearly impossible and the chance at my second choice is usually slim. Let me, and others like me, apply for an any-deer tag only. If not chosen, guarantee me an antlerless tag for that season and let me keep my preference. I like to hunt for bucks, but to not be able to hunt on my father's land with my family is horrible. People apply and get tags with nowhere to hunt, so they don't ever go out.

If you were to guarantee sons and daughters only the antlerless tag after denial, you would kill more female deer.

ID: 1964

I would like to see the size limit in the Black Hills moved up to at least 2x2, or even a 3x3. It is good to let the little ones grow up.

ID: 1965

It is increasingly becoming very difficult to find land or get permission to hunt on private land. The time is very fast approaching when the average hunter (like myself) either will not pay-to-hunt on private land or cannot afford it. This same problem stopped me from hunting pheasants 20 years ago.

GF&P needs to formalize a plan to again encourage the landowner to open up areas for hunting. Because it has become so restricted, deer numbers are going up and will continue to do so until this changes.

I cannot blame the landowner; they are trying to generate more revenue to meet expenses.

The whole mentality to pay-to-hunt will ruin the basic hunt, as we've known it.

ID: 1975

I would like to see more public land with road access to retrieve downed game!

ID: 1980

My husband and I were disappointed that we couldn't get additional tags when we tried to after the season started.

ID: 1981

I drew an any-deer tag this year and harvested a white-tail buck. I also received a leftover any mule deer tag that went unfilled, as there are not many mule deer around my home hunting grounds.

Due to the overabundance of white-tail does, I feel that perhaps in the future an unused tag should allow the taking of any antlerless deer in the extended season.

Also, instead of lowering antlerless deer tags in the hopes of issuing more licenses, maybe the GF&P should issue a management license (\$50?) that allows the hunter to harvest multiple deer outside the regular season. A stipulation could be held that any deer taken under this management license would be required to be checked in to a warden. This might give the state a better idea of the number of deer harvested and the exact area they are being harvested in.

ID: 1983

I would like to thank GF&P officers who helped me understand the Hunting Atlas. It was kind of confusing, and the officers went out of their way to find the answer to my questions. Thanks.

ID: 1988

I am a local with family; thus I have places to hunt. But I think access to land is a big barrier to many hunters.

I would like to see reduced fees for antlerless archery. Combine "any-deer" archery tag with an additional "antlerless" archery tag for a small additional fee.

We need mentoring programs combined with land access for young hunters.

We need to resolve the conflict between pheasant (fee and otherwise) hunting and other forms of hunting.

Thanks for your time!

ID: 1993

The Harding County landowners are doing little to nothing to help themselves and the natural resources.

ID: 1998

Overall, GF&P does a nice job managing this state's resources.

ID: 9003

The only reason I was disappointed this deer season is because I didn't get a deer. I didn't get a tag until my 3rd try. More land to hunt deer is badly needed.

ID: 9005

If you were to move muzzleloader season before firearm season you would get more harvest. I would like any-deer muzzleloader season.

ID: 9009

Have the muzzleloader season before the rifle season.

ID: 9011

Fix West River hunting with the landowners.

ID: 9012

GF&P officers are sometimes rude.

Report to Survey Participants
Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003
Evaluation of the 2003 East & West River Deer Seasons
Focus on the Efforts to Increase Harvest of Antlerless Deer in 2003

Larry Gigliotti
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks



September 2004

Dear Resident Deer Hunter,

This is a summary report of the 2003 East & West River Deer Hunter Survey. We sincerely thank all of you who participated by completing and returning your booklet questionnaire. We had 1,518 hunters return their questionnaire for a response rate of 76.2%. The general purpose of this survey was to learn more about resident East & West River rifle deer hunters. A major focus of this study was on antlerless deer hunting and an evaluation of the strategies implemented in 2003 to increase antlerless deer harvest.

The issue facing wildlife managers is how to get the yearly harvest of antlerless deer needed to keep the deer population under control and also provide “quality” hunting opportunities for South Dakota hunters?

Deer Harvest Evaluation – 2003

Evaluation of the 2003 East & West River Deer Seasons

Focus on the Efforts to Increase Harvest of Antlerless Deer in 2003

Larry Gigliotti
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

Changes implemented in 2003 for East & West River Deer Season:

- 1) reduced fees for antlerless deer licenses
- 2) an extended week of hunting for antlerless deer (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” will be changed to their respective antlerless tags)
- 3) an additional antlerless season from January 1-11 on private land only for any unsold or un-filled tags (unsold and unfilled “any deer”, “any whitetail” and “any mule deer” will be changed to their respective antlerless tags)
- 4) an increase in the maximum number of licenses one may purchase from 3 to 5
- 5) an ability for East River deer hunters to purchase licenses throughout the deer season from various agents located across the region (previously hunters had to go to Pierre to buy licenses once the season started)

Overall Effect of the Strategies on Harvest:

- The strategies implemented in 2003 resulted in an average increase of 41% in the West River antlerless deer harvest and an average increase of 24% in the East River antlerless deer harvest.

Selected Results from the Survey:

- The average optimal number of deer that hunters want to harvest is 2.3 deer. About 85% of the hunters fell into the range of 1 to 3 deer as their optimal number of deer to harvest (1 deer = 25.0%, 2 deer = 46.8%, and 3 deer = 13.0%). The total average number of deer harvested was 1.26 per hunter.
- Based on hunters’ total deer harvest for 2003 about 46% would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer.
- For the hunters that did not want to harvest more antlerless deer “not liking to hunt antlerless deer” was a reason for about half of these hunters, but the main reason was that they had already harvested enough deer in 2003 (73% of the hunters).
- For the hunters that would have liked to have harvested more antlerless deer the top reasons were “not having enough time” and “not being lucky.” “Not being able to get antlerless tags” was not a reason for most of these deer hunters.

- Overall, most deer hunters (86.5%) are willing to harvest antlerless deer. Of the hunters willing to harvest antlerless deer, 56% of the hunters reported that the strategies implemented in 2003 helped them to harvest more antlerless deer than they normally would have harvested.
- All five strategies helped to increase the antlerless deer harvest to some extent. The hunters reported that the extended week of hunting for antlerless deer immediately following the regular rifle season and the additional antlerless season from January 1–11 were the two top strategies for increasing antlerless deer harvest.
- Support was very high for all five of the strategies implemented to increase antlerless deer harvest.
- About 28% of the hunters hunted during the extended week of antlerless deer hunting immediately following the regular rifle season. A higher percentage of East River deer hunters than West River deer hunters hunted during the extended week for antlerless deer hunting (35% vs. 20%).
- About 26% of the hunters hunted during the additional antlerless deer season (January 1 – 11, 2004). A higher percentage of East River deer hunters than West River deer hunters hunted during the extended week for antlerless deer hunting (35% vs. 18%).
- Most deer hunters (77%) would be willing to harvest antlerless deer to donate to the Hunters for the Hungry program if they did not have to pay for the processing fees, with only 12% not being likely to participate and 11% unsure. West River and East River deer hunters had similar attitudes towards this potential strategy.
- Most (73%) of the deer hunters were satisfied with their 2003 deer hunting experience, with only 18% being dissatisfied. West River and East River deer hunters had similar levels of satisfaction.
- A higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer (84% vs. 74%); overall most deer hunters can be satisfied without killing a deer.
- A slightly higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters are only interested in buck hunting (16% vs. 12%), however, most deer hunters are not strictly focused on buck hunting.
- Filling their deer tag is more important to a higher percent of East River deer hunters compared to West River deer hunters (54% vs. 40%).

- Hunting for a large buck is more important to a higher percent of West River deer hunters compared to East River deer hunters (37% vs. 31%).
- When asked to pick their main reason for liking deer hunting, most West River and East River deer hunters picked social reasons (31% and 28%; respectively). Overall, West River and East River deer hunters were relatively similar in their main dominant motivations for liking deer hunting (Table A).

Table A. Main reason for liking deer hunting – Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **deer hunting**?

TOP REASON	Resident Deer Hunters – 2003		
	West River Hunters	East River Hunters	COMBINED
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family. (Social)	30.9%	27.5%	29.0%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc. (Excitement)	18.9%	22.3%	20.6%
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area. (Nature)	19.7%	16.4%	18.2%
To bring meat home for food. (Meat)	9.4%	12.7%	11.0%
For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer & dealing with the elements (Challenge)	8.7%	10.3%	9.6%
To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment. (Trophy)	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%
To spend time alone in the woods. (Solitude)	3.8%	2.1%	2.9%
NUMBER	715	726	1,451

- **The same strategies implemented in 2003 will also be in effect for the 2004 East River and West River deer seasons.**

For a complete copy of these survey results, please send your name and address to:

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 523 E. Capitol
 Pierre, SD 57501

or send your name and address to me by e-mail: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

and ask for the Deer **2003 Deer Harvest Evaluation** report.

